A N

EXTRACT

O F

John Nelſon's Journal;

B E I N G

An Account of GOD's Dealing with his Soul, from his Youth to the Forty-ſecond Year of his Age, and his working by him:

L I K E W I S E,

The Oppreſſions he met with from People of different Denominations.

Written by HIMSELF.

Bleſſed be GOD, even the Father of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, the Father of Mercies, and the GOD of all Comfort; who comforteth us in all our Tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any Trouble, by the Comfort, wherewith ourſelves are comforted of GOD.——2 *Corinthians*, i. 3, 4.

LORD, thou haſt led the Blind by a Way that he knew not.

Where ſhall my wond'ring Soul begin?
How ſhall I all to Heav'n aſpire?
A Slave redeem'd from Death and Sin,
A Brand pluck'd from eternal Fire:
How ſhall I equal Triumphs raiſe,
And ſing my great Deliv'rer's Praiſe?

B R I S T O L;

Printed by E. FARLEY and Co. in Small-ſtreet, 1767.

[Price TWO SHILLINGS.]

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE PREFACE.

THE following Sheets were written at divers Times, for my own Satisfaction. But about 17 Years ago, when I was in the *Newcaſtle* Round, I tranſcribed them into a Book. Some of our Friends ſaw them, and begg'd they might be printed; which I refuſed at that Time, knowing my own Ignorance and Inability.

HOWEVER Mr. THORNTON, the Lawyer, heard of it, and deſired me to let him ſee it; when he thought, as the Caſe had been already publiſhed, and had been a Means of ſtirring up many to hear the Word, this might be of Uſe to comfort ſome that were in Trouble, and adviſed me to put it to the Preſs.

I DECLINED it for the preſent; but Mr. THORNTON ſhew'd them to ſeveral Friends at *Leeds*, who were of the ſame Opinion, and preſſed upon me to print it immediately, which I with much Reluctance agreed to: And I pray, that GOD may make it a Bleſſing to all that read it; and if any receive Benefit therefrom, the LORD ſhall have the Glory; for to him alone it doth belong.

WHAT is wrong may the LORD pardon: And that no one may be hurt by me, or any Thing I have written or preached, is the ſincere Prayer of 20 M. 59

Their unworthy Servant,
For Chriſt's Sake,
John Nelſon.

SOME

ACCOUNT, &c.

I JOHN NELSON was born in the Pariſh of *Birſtal*, in the Weſt-Riding of the County of *York*, in *October*, 1707, and brought up a Maſon, as was my Father before me.

When I was between nine and ten Years old, I was horribly terrified with the Thought of Death and Judgment, whenever I was alone: And one Sunday Night I ſat on the Ground, by the Side of my Father's Chair, as he was reading the 20th Chapter of the *Revelation*, when the Word came with ſuch Light and Power to my Soul, that it made me tremble and cry, as if a Dart was ſhot into my Heart; and I fell with my Face on the Floor, till the Place was wet where I lay, as if Water had been poured thereon. As my Father proceeded, I thought I ſaw every Thing he read about, tho' my Eyes were ſhut; and the Sight was ſo terrible, that I was about to ſtop my Ears, that I might not hear, but I durſt not; for as ſoon as I put my Fingers to my Ears, I pulled them back again. When he came to the 11th Verſe, the Words made me cringe, and my Fleſh ſeemed to creep on my Bones; where he ſaid, *And I ſaw a great white Throne, and Him that ſat thereon, from whoſe Face the Heavens and Earth*

fled away, and there was found no Place for them: And I saw the Dead, small and great, stand before GOD, and the Books were opened; and another Book was opened, which is the Book of Life; and the Dead were judged out of those Things that were written in the Books, according to their Works.------O! what a Scene was opened in my Mind! It was as if I had seen the LORD JESUS CHRIST sitting on his Throne, with the Twelve Apostles below him; and a large Book open at his left Hand on the Throne; and as it were a Bar fixed about ten Paces from the Throne, to which all the Children of *Adam* came up; and every one as he approached opened his Breast, as quick as a Man could open the Bosom of his Shirt: On one Leaf of the Book was written the Character of the Children of GOD, and on the other the Character of those that should not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. I thought neither the LORD nor the Apostles ever said any Thing, but every Soul, as they came up to the Bar, compared their Consciences with the Book, and went away to their own Places; one Part singing, and the other crying and howling. Those that went to the Right Hand were but like the Stream of a Brook, but the others like the Flowing of a mighty River.

GOD hath followed me with Convictions ever since I was ten Years old; and whenever I had committed any known Sin, either against GOD or Man, I used to be so terrified afterwards, that I shed many a Tear in private: Yet when I came to my Companions, I wiped my Face and went on again in Sin and Folly; but O the Hell I found in my Mind when I came to be alone again, and what Resolutions I made; nevertheless, when Temptation came, my Resolutions were as a Thread of Tow, that had touched the Fire.

When I was about Sixteen, I heard a Sermon in our own Church, which deprived me of Reſt in the Night, nor durſt I ſin as I had before for many Days. But alas! I looked the wrong Way, for I watched thoſe that were older and more learned than myſelf, and what they did I thought I might ſafely do; ſo turned back to Sin and Folly.----O what Evil do the old and learned Men do to thoſe that are young and unlearned! when their Lives are corrupt, they are certainly the moſt accurſed Beings on the Earth: How many Times have their Examples hardened my Heart, and encouraged me in the broad Way! Surely they are a Curſe to their own Children and Servants, as well as their ignorant, unlearned Neighbours.

When I was turned a little of Sixteen, my Father was taken ill, which I thought was for my Wickedneſs; yet at that Time, vile as I was, I prayed earneſtly that God would ſpare him for the Sake of my Mother and the young Children, and let me die in his Stead; but the Lord would not regard my Prayer. Three Days before he died, he ſaid to my Mother, "Trouble not thyſelf for me; for I know that my Peace is made with God, and He will provide for Thee and the Children." I was greatly ſurprized at his Words, wondering how he could know his Peace was made with God.

In one of my Times of Trouble I was in a Stable, and falling into a Slumber, I dreamt that I prayed that God would make me happy; but I thought, what will make me happy, if the Lord would do for me what I aſk of him? Then I dreamt, I beheld *Jeremiah* the Prophet ſtanding on a large Block of Stone, at the Weſt-gate of *Jeruſalem*: His Countenance was grave, and with great

Authority he reproved the Elders and Magiſtrates of the City; for which they were enraged, and pulling him down, caſt him on a Dunghill where the Butchers poured forth the Blood of their ſlain Beaſts: And I imagined I ſaw them tread him under their Feet, but his Countenance never changed, neither did he ceaſe to cry out, *Thus ſaith the LORD; if ye will not repent and give Glory to my Name, I will bring Deſtruction on you and your City.* He ſeemed ſo compoſed, and ſo happy, while he lay on the Dunghill, and they were treading him under their Feet, that I ſaid in my Dream, "O GOD, make me like *Jeremiah*." And tho' but a Dream, it left ſuch an Impreſſion upon me, as if I had ſeen it with my Eyes.-----And ſince then, Thou, LORD, in a ſmall Meaſure, haſt given me to taſte of his Cup.

WHEN I was about Nineteen, I found myſelf in great Danger of falling into ſcandalous Sins, and I prayed, I believe, twenty Times for GOD to preſerve me, and give me a Wife that I might live with to his Glory. He heard my Prayer, and delivered me out of many dangerous Temptations, for which I praiſe his holy Name.

THE firſt Time I ever ſaw my Wife was at *Tonge*, where I was going to build the New Church. I did not know who ſhe was, nor where ſhe came from; but at firſt Sight I ſaid in my Mind, "That is the Woman I aſked of GOD in Prayer;" and I fully determined, if I got married, I would live to his Glory. But what is a Reſolution when made in our own Strength! For tho' I believe GOD gave me the moſt ſuitable Wife that I could have had in every Reſpect, yet for ſome Years after we were married, I did not live to his Glory, for I loved Pleaſure more than

God; tho' many a Time, when I had been ſhooting a whole Day, and had got the Creatures I purſued, yet I was quite unhappy, and ready to break the Gun in Pieces, reſolving to never ſhoot or hunt more. And I ſaid to my Wife, "I am determined to leave off this Courſe of Life, yet it is impoſſible if I ſtay here; therefore if thou be free, I will go to Sir *Rowland Wynne*'s, and ſee if I can get Buſineſs there, or ſomewhere elſe at a Diſtance from home;" to which ſhe gladly conſented, neither of us acquainting any one with my Deſign.

On Monday Morning we parted in great Love, praying one for the other. As I went from our Town, I made Uſe of *Jacob*'s Words which he ſpake to the Lord as he went to *Padanaram*; and the Lord bleſſed me in all my Journey. I found Work at *Newark on Trent*, and ſtayed about a Month: All that Time the Hand of God was on me, by convicting me of my former Sins; ſo that the Senſe of his Wrath being juſtly kindled againſt me, made me cry to Him for Mercy, ſome Days forty Times in the Day. Then I went to *London*, and got into Buſineſs the Day I arrived there. Here my Concern for Salvation increaſed for ſome Time, and I continued to read and pray when I had done my Work, refuſing all Company; and I believe, if I had had ſome one to ſhew me the Way, I ſhould have cloſed in with the Lord in a ſaving Manner. But I looked at Men for Example, and fell from my Seriouſneſs. The Workmen curſed and abuſed me, becauſe I would not drink with them, and ſpend my Money as they did; and I bore many Inſults from them, without opening my Mouth to ſpeak to them again. But when they took my Tools from me, and ſaid, if I would not drink with them, I ſhould not work while

they were drinking; that provoked me, and I fought with ſeveral of them, then they let me alone. But that ſtifled my Concern for Salvation; and I left off Prayer and Reading in a great Meaſure. I ſtay'd better than Half a Year, and had not one Hour's Sickneſs, nor did I want one Day's Work in all that Time; ſo that by my Hand Labour, I cleared, beſides maintaining myſelf, *Twelve Pounds, Fifteen Shillings.*

THEN I came home, and fell into my former Courſe; and I ſaid to my Wife, "I cannot live here." So I ſet off for *London* again, ordering her to follow me in the Waggon. We both got well there, and lived in a good Way, (as the World call it) that is, in Peace and Plenty, and Love to each other.

AFTER ſome Time, I had a ſore Fit of Illneſs: Then my Conſcience was alarmed, and I expected to die and periſh Body and Soul in Hell. O the Diſtreſs I was in, not for the Fear of Death, ſo much as the Judgment that ſhould follow! But the LORD rebuked the Fever, and reſtored me to perfect Health.

AFTER reſiding ſome Years in *London*, my Wife had not her Health, therefore we agreed, that ſhe ſhould take our two Children and go into the Country, and I would follow at a certain Seaſon; accordingly I did; but I could not reſt Night or Day. I ſaid I muſt go to *London* again. Several aſked me why I would go again, ſince I might live at home as well as any where in the World. My Anſwer was, I have ſomething to learn that I have not yet learned: But I did not know, that it was the great Leſſon of Love to GOD and Man. When I got there, I fell to work preſently, and all Things

proſpered that I purſued; I then began to conſider what I wanted to make me happy; for I was yet as a Man in a barren Wilderneſs, that could find no Way out; I ſaid to myſelf, what can I deſire that I have not? I enjoy as good Health as any Man can do; I have as agreeable a Wife as I can wiſh for; I am clothed as well as I can deſire; I have at preſent more Gold and Silver than I have need of; yet ſtill I keep wandering from one Part of the Kingdom to another, ſeeking Reſt and cannot find it: Then I cried out, O! that I had been a Cow or a Sheep;---for I looked back to ſee how I had ſpent above thirty Years; and I thought, rather than live thirty more ſo, I would chuſe Strangling. But when I conſider'd that after ſuch a troubleſome Life, I muſt give an Account of the Deeds done in the Fleſh before God, who knew all my Thoughts, Words, and Actions, I cried out, O that I had never been born; for I feared my Day of Grace was over, becauſe I had made ſo many Reſolutions and had broke them all: Yet I thought, I will ſet out once more, for I ſaid, ſurely God never made Man to be ſuch a Riddle to himſelf, and to leave him ſo: There muſt be ſomething in Religion, that I am not acquainted with, to ſatisfy the empty Mind of Man, or he is in a worſe State than the Beaſts that periſh. In all theſe Troubles, I had none to open my Mind to, but I wandered up and down in the Fields alone, when I had done my Work, praying as I walked, and meditating what Courſe to take to ſave my Soul.

I went from Church to Church, but found no Eaſe: One Miniſter at St. *Paul*'s preach'd about Man doing his Duty to God and his Neighbour, and when ſuch came to lie on a Death-Bed, what Joy they would find in

their own Breaſt, by looking back on their well ſpent Life.——But that Sermon had like to have deſtroyed my Soul; for I looked back, and could not ſee one Day in all my Life, wherein I had not left undone ſomething that I ought to have done, and had done wrong; that I was ſo far from having a well-ſpent Life to reflect upon, that I ſaw, if one Day well-ſpent would ſave my Soul, and if that was the Terms of my Salvation, I muſt be damn'd. O! what a Stab was that Sermon to my wounded Soul! It made me wiſh my Mother's Womb had been my Grave. After that I heard another, wherein the Preacher ſummed up all the Chriſtian Duties: But he ſaid, Man ſince the Fall could not perfectly fulfil the Will of his Maker; but that God required him to do all he could, and Christ would make out the reſt; but if Man did not do all he could, he muſt unavoidably periſh: For he had no right to expect any Intereſt in the Merits of Christ, if he had not fulfilled his Part, and done all that lay in his Power. Then I thought not only me, but every Soul muſt be damned: For I did not believe that any who had lived to Years of Maturity, had done all they could, and avoided all the Evil they might.——Therefore I concluded, that none could be ſaved but little Children. O what deadly Phyſic was that Sort of Doctrine to my poor ſin-ſick Soul!

I thought I would try others; and went to hear the *Diſſenters* of divers Denominations, but to no Purpoſe. I went to the *Romans*, but was ſoon ſurfeited with their Way of Worſhip. Then I went to the *Quakers*, and prayed, that God would not ſuffer the Blind to go out of the Way, but join me to the People that worſhipped

him in Spirit and in Truth; I cared not what they were call'd, nor what I ſuffered upon Earth, ſo that my Soul might be ſaved at laſt. I believe I heard them every Sunday for three Months; what made me continue ſo long was, the Expectation of ſome Help by hearing them; for there was one, almoſt at my firſt going, that ſpoke ſomething that nearly ſuited the State my Soul was in; but he ſhewed no Remedy. I had now tried all but the *Jews*, and I thought it was to no Purpoſe to go to them; ſo I thought I would go to Church, and read and pray, whether I periſh or not. But I was amazed, when I came to join in the Morning-Prayer, to ſee that I had mocked my Maker all my Days, by praying for Things I did not expect nor deſire: Then I thought none could be ſo ignorant as I had been, nor ſo baſe, to draw near to God with their Lips and their Hearts ſo far from him.

In the Spring Mr. *Whitefield* came into *Moorfields*, and I went to hear him: He was to me as a Man that could play well on an Inſtrument, for his Preaching was pleaſant to me, and I loved the Man; ſo that if any one offered to diſturb him, I was ready to fight for him. But I did not underſtand him, tho' I might hear him twenty Times for ought I know; yet I got ſome Hope of Mercy, ſo that I was encouraged to pray on, and ſpend my leiſure Hours in reading the Scriptures. But ſometimes as I was reading, I thought if what I read was true, and if none are Chriſtians, but ſuch as St. *John* and St. *Paul* deſcribe to be God's People, I do not know one Perſon that is a Chriſtian either in Town or Country: I ſaid, if Things be ſo, I am no more a Chriſtian than a Devil; and my Hope of ever being one was very ſmall. In this

Struggle I had but little Sleep; if I ſlept four Hours out of Twenty-four, I thought it a great Deal; ſometimes I ſtarted as if I was falling into ſome horrible Place; at other Times I dreamed that I was fighting with *Satan*, and when I awaked, I was ſweating and as fatigued as if I had really been fighting. Yet all this Time I was as capable of working both in Underſtanding and Strength, as ever I was in my Life; and this was an Encouragement to me. In all this Time I did not open my Mind to any Perſon either by Word or Letter; but I was like a wandering Bird, caſt out of the Neſt, till Mr. *John Weſley* came to preach his firſt Sermon in *Moorfields*. O that was a bleſſed Morning to my Soul! As ſoon as he got upon the Stand, he ſtroked back his Hair, and turned his Face towards where I ſtood, and I thought fixed his Eyes on me: His Countenance ſtruck ſuch an awful Dread upon me, before I heard him ſpeak, that it made my Heart beat like the Pendulum of a Clock; and when he did ſpeak, I thought his whole Diſcourſe was aimed at me: When he had done, I ſaid, "This Man can tell the Secrets of my Heart; He hath fully deſcribed the Diſeaſe of my Soul; but he hath not left me there, for he hath ſhewed the Remedy, even the Blood of JESUS. Then was my Soul filled with Conſolation thro' Hope, that GOD for CHRIST's Sake would ſave me; neither did I doubt in ſuch a Manner any more, till within twenty-four Hours of the Time, when the LORD wrote a Pardon on my Heart. Tho' this was a little after Midſummer that I heard him, and it was three Weeks after Michaelmas before I found the true Peace of GOD; yet I continued to hear as often as I could, but not to neglect my Work. I had many Flaſhes of Love under the Word,

when I was at private Prayer, and at the Table of the LORD; but they were ſhort, and often ſome ſore Temptations followed.

NOW all my Acquaintance ſet upon me, to perſwade me not to go too far in Religion, leſt it ſhould unfit me for my Buſineſs, and ſo bring Poverty and Diſtreſs on my Family; and ſaid they wiſhed I had never heard Mr. *Weſley*, for they were afraid it would be the Ruin of me. I told them I had Reaſon to bleſs GOD that ever he was born, for by hearing him I was ſenſible, that my Buſineſs in this World was to get well out of it; and as for my Trade, Health, Wiſdom, and all Things in the World, they were no Bleſſings to me, any farther than as ſo many Inſtruments to help me by the Grace of GOD to work out my Salvation. Then they ſaid they were ſorry for me, and ſhould be glad to knock Mr. *Weſley*'s Brains out, for he would be the Ruin of many Families, if he was allowed to live, and go on as he did. Some of them ſaid they would not hear him preach for 50l. But I told them I had Reaſon to bleſs GOD that ever I heard him, and I intended to hear him as often as I could, for I believed him to be GOD's Meſſenger; and if I did not ſeek to be born again, and experience that ſpiritual Birth, I could not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, which was the Doctrine he preached.

A LITTLE after Michaelmas I had many Trials again, and Paſſion got Advantage over me: Then I thought it was to no Purpoſe for me to ſtrive any longer, for every one endeavoured to provoke me, and I could not bear it. About this Time, I was going out of the *Park* into *Weſtminſter*, where was a Soldier with his Arms about him,

as he was coming from Guard, who began to talk to ſome other Soldiers and a Company of Welch Women. I was but a few Paces from him: The Tenor of his Diſcourſe was as follows; "You know what Manner of Man I was ſome Months ago; and none of you pitied me then, though I was going headlong to the Devil; for I was a Drunkard and a Swearer; I was a Whore-monger and a Fighter; a Sabbath-Breaker and a Gameſter; nay I know no Sin but I was guilty of either in Word or Deed; ſo that it is a Miracle, that my Neck was not brought to the Gallows, and my Soul to Hell long ago: At that Time I durſt not think of Death; for I had no Reaſon to think of ought but Hell; therefore I was deſperate in Wickedneſs, and did not put a Reſtraint on any Luſt or Appetite: 'Till one Day, as I was coming out of the Country by *Kenington* Common, Mr. *John Weſley* was going to preach, and I thought I would hear what he had to ſay; for I had heard many learned and wiſe Men ſay he was beſide himſelf; but when he began to ſpeak, his Words made me tremble. I thought he ſpoke to no one but me, and I durſt not look up, for I imagined all the People were looking at me; and was aſhamed to ſhew my Face, expecting GOD would make me a public Example, either by letting the Earth open and ſwallow me up, or by ſtriking me dead: But before Mr. *Weſley* concluded his Sermon, he cried out, *Let the Wicked forſake his Way, and the unrighteous Man his Thoughts, and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have Mercy on him, and to our GOD, and He will abundantly pardon.* I ſaid, if that be true, I will turn to GOD To-day. I immediately went home, and began to read and pray, keeping out of all bad Company for about a Fortnight, and hearing Mr.

Weſley as often as I could: But my old Companions miſſed me, and came to ſee what was the Matter: When they found me reading the Bible, they curſed and ſwore, and dragged me away into an Alehouſe, where I ſat down and began to reaſon with them; but O how dangerous it is to encounter with *Satan* on his own Ground; for as I talked I began to drink a little, which got into my Head, when I quarrelled with them and fought; and as I was going to my Quarters, a lewd Woman met me, and I had not Power to reſiſt her, but was again taken captive by the Devil. Nevertheleſs when I had ſlept, I was ſo terrified, I thought I never dare pray more, or expect Mercy. I was determined, however, to hear Mr. *Charles Weſley* that Night, and by his Preaching I had ſome Hopes that my Day of Grace was not over: Then I began to pray again and read the Scriptures: And one Sunday Morning I called at *Whitehall* Chapel, where the Sacrament was going to be adminiſtered; I went to the Table with trembling Limbs and a heavy Heart; but no ſooner had I received, than I found Power to believe that JESUS CHRIST had ſhed his Blood for me, and that GOD for his Sake had forgiven my Offences: Then was my Heart filled with Love to GOD and Man; and ſince then Sin hath not had Dominion over me."

HIS Words ſunk deep in my Mind, and made me cry more earneſtly, that GOD would work the ſame Change in my Heart. I found my Soul much refreſhed at the Sacrament on the Sunday after, and mightily encouraged under Mr. *Weſley*'s Sermon in the Afternoon; all the Week after I felt an awful Senſe of GOD reſt upon me; and I had a great Watchfulneſs over my Words, and ſeveral ſhort Viſits of Love, having great Hope that

I had got a compleat Victory over my beſetting Sin: But Paſſion was yet too ſtrong for me, for that Night I fell again, and cried out immediately, "I am undone, I have loſt all Hopes of Mercy." All the Night I was as if I had been given up to *Satan*. In the Morning, one prayed with me, but I found no Anſwer; for my Heart was as hard as a Rock of Stone.

When I went back to my Lodging at Noon, Dinner was ready; and the Gentlewoman ſaid, "Come ſit down, you have need of your Dinner, for you have eaten Nothing to Day:" But when I looked on the Meat, I ſaid, "Shall ſuch a Wretch as I devour the good Creatures of God in the State I am now in? No, I deſerve to be thruſt into Hell." I then went into my Chamber, ſhut the Door, and fell down on my Knees, crying, *LORD ſave or I periſh.* When I had prayed till I could pray no more, I got up and walked to and fro, being reſolved I would neither eat or drink, 'till I had found the Kingdom of God. I fell down to Prayer again, but found no Relief; got up and walked again; then Tears began to flow from my Eyes, like great Drops of Rain, and I fell on my Knees a third Time; but now I was as dumb as a Beaſt, and could not put up one Petition, if it would have ſaved my Soul. I kneeled before the Lord ſome Time, and ſaw myſelf a Criminal before the Judge; then I ſaid, "Lord, thy Will be done, damn or ſave." That Moment Jesus Christ was as evidently ſet before the Eye of my Mind, as crucified for my Sins, as if I had ſeen him with my bodily Eyes; and in that Inſtant my Heart was ſet at Liberty from Guilt and tormenting Fear, and filled with a calm and ſerene Peace. I could then ſay, without all Dread or Fear, "Thou art my Lord

and my GOD." Now did I begin to ſing that Part of the 12th Chapter of *Iſaiah: O LORD, I will praiſe Thee; tho' Thou waſt angry with me, thine Anger is turned away from me, and Thou comforteſt me: Behold, GOD is my Salvation; I will truſt and not be afraid, for the LORD JEHOVAH is my Strength and my Song; and He alſo is become my Salvation.*------ My Heart was filled with Love to GOD and every Soul of Man; and next to my Wife and Children, my Mother, Brethren and Siſters, my greateſt Enemies had an Intereſt in my Prayers; and I cried, "O LORD, give me to ſee my Deſire on them; let them experience thy redeeming Love."

IN the Afternoon I opened the Book where it ſaid, *Unto Him that loved us, and waſhed us from our Sins, in his own Blood*,—with which I was ſo affected, that I could not read for Weeping. That Evening, under Mr. *Weſley*'s Sermon, I could do nothing but weep, and love, and praiſe GOD, for ſending his Servant into the Fields to ſhew me the Way of Salvation. All that Day I neither ate nor drank any Thing; for before I found Peace to my Soul, the Hand of GOD was ſo heavy upon me, that I refuſed to eat; and after I had found Peace, I was ſo filled with the Manna of redeeming Love, that I had no Need of the Bread that periſheth for that Seaſon.

AT Night when I came Home, the Gentlewoman of the Houſe where I had lodged a long Time, told me to provide a Lodging, for I muſt ſtay there no longer than that one Night; for her Huſband was afraid ſome Miſchief would come either on them or me, with ſo much Praying and Fuſs as I made about Religion. I told them I would come on Wedneſday Night, and pay what I

owed them, and fetch my Cloaths away, praying that God might reward them for the Kindneſs they had ſhewed me; for I had had a Fever in the Houſe; and ſurely no one could ſhew more Compaſſion to a Stranger, than they did to me at that Time.

On Wedneſday Night (according to my Promiſe) I went to my old Lodging, and paid what I owed there, and got my Cloaths ready to bring away; but having forgot ſomething, I ſtept back into my Room to look for it: In the mean Time, the Man ſaid to his Wife,------ "Suppoſe *John* ſhould be right, and *we* wrong, it will be a ſad Thing to turn him out of Doors." When I came down, the Woman ſtood at the Door, and ſaid, "You ſhall not go out of this Houſe to Night." I ſaid, "What, will you neither let me go nor ſtay?" She replied, "My Huſband is not willing you ſhould go; for he ſaith, if God hath done any Thing more for you than for us, he would have you ſhew us, how we may find the ſame Mercy." So I ſat down with them, and told them of God's Dealing with my Soul, and prayed with them; ſoon after which they both went to hear Mr. *Weſley* preach, when the Woman was made Partaker of the ſame Grace; and I hope to meet them both in Heaven.

On the Saturday following, the Dragon ſtood ready to devour my new-born Soul; for my Maſter's chief Foreman came to me, ſaying, "*John Nelſon*, you muſt look after ſuch and ſuch Men To-morrow; there is a Piece of Work to be done with all Speed, for the Lord of the Exchequer will be here on a particular Day, by which Time it muſt be compleated." "Sir, I replied,

you have forgot yourſelf; To-morrow is the Sabbath." He ſaid, he knew that as well as me; but the King's Buſineſs required Haſte, and it was common to work on the Sunday for his Majeſty, when any Thing was upon a Finiſh. I told him, I would not work upon the Sabbath for any Man in England, except it was to quench Fire, or ſomething that required the ſame immediate Help. He ſaid, *Religion* had made me a *Rebel* againſt the King. I anſwered, "No, Sir, *it* hath made me a *better Subject* than ever I was before;" but I told him, the greateſt Enemies the King had were the Sabbath-breakers, Swearers, Drunkards, and Whore-mongers; for theſe pull down God's Judgments upon both King and Country. Then he ſaid, if I would not obey him, I ſhould loſe my Buſineſs. I replied, "I cannot help it: Tho' it may be Ten Pounds out of my Way to be turned out of my Work at this Time of the Year, I will not wilfully offend God; for I would much rather want Bread; nay, I would rather ſee my Wife and Children beg their Bread barefooted to Heaven, than ride in a Coach to Hell." He ſwore, if I went on a while I ſhould be as mad as *Whitefield*; and ſaid, "What haſt thou done, that thou needſt make ſo much ado about Salvation? I always took thee to be as honeſt a Man as any I have in the Work, and could have truſted thee with 500*l.* I anſwered, "So you might, and not have loſt one Penny by me." He ſaid, "What, haſt thou killed ſomebody, or committed Adultery, that thou art ſo much afraid of being damned?" I replied, "God takes the Will for the Deed; and tho' clear from thoſe Acts, I deſerve to be damned tenfold for other Crimes; for if I ſin wilfully againſt God, after he hath ſhewed

me ſuch Mercy, I may expect to have the hotteſt Hell." He ſaid, " I have a worſe Opinion of thee now than ever." I replied, " Maſter, I have the Odds of you; for I have a much worſe Opinion of myſelf, than you can have.

At Night, when I went to receive my Wages, he aſked me if I was ſtill obſtinate? I anſwered, " I am determined not to break the Sabbath; for I will run the Hazard of wanting Bread here, before I would run the Hazard of wanting Water hereafter." He ſaid, *Weſley* had made a Fool of me, and I ſhould beggar my Family. I had a glorious Sabbath that Day; for God bleſſed my Soul wonderfully, both under the Word, and at the Sacrament.

I went on Monday Morning to the Exchequer, to take Care of my Tools, not expecting to work there any more. But God hath the Hearts of all Men in his own Hand; for he, that was ſo wroth with me on the Saturday, now gave me good Words, and bid me ſet the Men to work. From that Time he carved better for me than ever before; neither did he ſet to work any Man on the Sabbath, as he had ſaid he would. So I ſee it is good to obey God, and caſt our Care upon him, and he will order all Things well; for if we refuſe to join with the Wicked, it will be a Reſtraint to them.

In the Time of all my Convictions, I never let my Wife know of my Trouble: But now I could not eat my Morſel alone; for I wrote to her and all my Relations, to ſeek the ſame Mercy that I had found: However, all I writ ſeemed as idle Tales to moſt of them.

Some Weeks after, three Gentlemen (*profeſſed Deiſts*) fell upon me, and reaſoned with me for about an Hour; but the Lord put ſuch Words in my Mouth, that made them ſay, *Weſley* had taught me his own Leſſon; and I was ſunk ſo deep into *Enthuſiaſm*, that I was paſt Recovery. Nevertheleſs, I ſee it is bad for weak Believers to reaſon with Men of corrupt Principles; for after ſome Time the Enemy brought their Words to my Mind, and began to reaſon with me in this Manner, "Suppoſe Jesus Christ ſhould be an Impoſtor [*as theſe Men ſay He is*] thou art loſt for ever." O! the Diſtreſs I was in for a ſhort Time. But I made a Stop in the Streight, and ſaid, "If Jesus Christ be not the Son of God and my Saviour, I will be damned, for I will have no other." Then the Cloud broke, and my Soul was ſo filled with Love, that I thought, if all the World, and the Devils of Hell, were to ſet on me, they could not make me diſbelieve, that Jesus Christ is very and true God, and my Redeemer.

I daily reproved all that ſinned in the Work where I was; ſo that none of them would ſwear in my Preſence. But having no Chriſtian Friend to converſe with, I kept cloſe to God in Prayer, and read the Bible at all Opportunities, and heard one of the Mr. *Weſleys* every Sunday, ſtirring up many to go to hear them: And tho' I had many Trials, I was ſo kept by the Power of God, that nothing diſturbed my Peace again for ſome Time.

Once, however, as I was reading in the Bible, a Gentlewoman (that lived in Part of the Houſe) brought me a Book, and ſaid, "You are often reading the Bible: If you pleaſe, I will lend you this Book: My Mother, ſhe

added, took Delight in reading therein." I thanked her, and began to read. For ſome Pages it was agreeable to many Things I had experienced in the Time of Conviction; but it was not at all correſpondent with my Experience, as to my Converſion; pleading for Sin after Converſion, to keep the Saints humble, and making GOD the Author of all Sin.

THEN the Enemy began to reaſon with me, that I ought not to reprove any more for Sin. From that Time my Love began to cool unto GOD and Man, and my Zeal for the Salvation of others abated; and tho' the more I read, the worſe I was in my own Soul, yet I was tempted to read it through.

BEFORE I read in that Book, I did not know there was a Man in the World who held ſuch an Opinion; for in all my Trials, I believed every Threatning in the Bible was againſt the Diſobedient, and every Promiſe to thoſe that turn to GOD. But now I was tempted to think I was ſafe, *do whatever I would:* Yet I ſtill prayed, "LORD, let me die rather than live to ſin againſt Thee."

I HAD never ſpoke to Mr. *Weſley* in my Life, nor converſed with any experienced Man, about Religion. I longed to find one to talk with; but I ſought in vain, for I could find none.

ONE Time, as I was reaſoning about what I had read, I opened the Bible on theſe Words. *If any Man lack Wiſdom, let him aſk of GOD, who giveth liberally and upbraideth not:* Then I cried out, "O LORD, what I know not, do Thou teach me." And I thought I would wait upon the LORD in Faſting and Prayer, till he revealed his Will

to me; and I did, for ſeveral Weeks, faſt from Thurſday Night till Saturday Morning at Eight o'Clock, ſpending the Time I was off my Work, either upon my Knees at Prayer, or in ſearching the Scriptures; and before I opened the Bible, I prayed that GOD would open my Underſtanding to comprehend what I read. I think the firſt Scripture that was applied to me was, *As ye have received the LORD JESUS, ſo walk in him:* Then I remembered what State my Soul was in, when I firſt received his Spirit in my Heart; that it was ſwelled with Love to every Soul, and I could pray for all my Enemies as well as for myſelf; but this Book had turned me out of that bleſſed State I was in, by ſetting me to reaſon about Opinions that I never heard of in my Life, till ſeveral Weeks after I had received the Love of CHRIST: Therefore I ſaid in my Mind, let it be right or wrong, it is not neceſſary for Salvation; I found the LORD to be my Saviour, before I knew there was a Man in the World of that Opinion; and before I read of it, I loved both GOD and Man better than I have done ſince, and was more uſeful in reproving, and doing Good than I am now. I then prayed that GOD would give me that Simplicity and godly Sincerity, that I walked in when he firſt revealed CHRIST in my Heart. And he anſwered me in a wonderful Manner; ſo that my Tongue was looſed to reprove, and my Heart again enlarged to pray for every Soul of Man.

I NOW went on my Way rejoicing for ſome Days; and had ſo much of the LORD all the Day long, that my Soul ſeemed to breathe its Life in GOD, as naturally as my Body breathed Life in the common Air. But one Day I reproved a Man for ſwearing, when he told

me he was *predeſtinated* to it, and he did not trouble himſelf about it at all, for if he was one of the Elect, he ſhould be ſaved; but if not, all he could do would not alter GOD's Decree; ſo that all I ſaid to him, ſeemed to take no more Hold of him, than if I had thrown a Leather Ball againſt a Rock. I thought GOD was very good to me, who kept me ignorant of thoſe Opinions till I knew my Part in the all atoning Blood; for I feared, if I had heard ſuch Things in the Time of my Diſtreſs, it would have been the Deſtruction of my Body and Soul. Yet I durſt not ſay any thing againſt that Opinion, but wiſhed I had ſome experienced Man to converſe with about it; for I was brought into Heavineſs again by Reaſoning: But alas! not one could I find.

I STILL continued to wait on the LORD, with Faſting and Prayer; and one Day of Faſt, being greatly perplexed, I opened the Book with Prayer on theſe Words, *As I live, ſaith the LORD, I have no Pleaſure in the Death of a Sinner.* Then my Heart was ſet at Liberty; and I cried out, "Glory be to Thee, O LORD, for Thou haſt given me thy Word and thy Oath, and thy Spirit in my Heart to bear Witneſs, that Thou art no Reſpecter of Perſons."

NOW I found ſuch a Deſire for the Salvation of Souls, that I hired one of the Men to go and hear Mr. *Weſley* preach, who hath ſince told me, it was the beſt Thing for both him and his Wife, that ever Man did for them.

ALL that hard Winter, I ſtill faſted from Thurſday Night to Saturday Morning; and gave away the Meat, that I ſhould have eaten, to the Poor, ſpending my Time in Prayer and reading the Scripture.

About this Time, ſeveral came to ſee me, who finding me at Work, looked at each other like Men amazed, and ſaid they were glad to ſee me ſo well. I told them I had not had one Day's Sickneſs for ſix Months. They ſaid, "A Man that worked at the Treaſury with you, told us, you had been hearing that falſe Prophet, *Weſley*; and he had made you go mad, and incapable of working." "Well, ſaid I, here is my Maſter can teſtify, that I have not loſt one Day's Work this Half-year, nor was I ever better able to do my Work in all my Life; but I have heard Mr. *Weſley*, and have Reaſon to bleſs God for it, for he is God's Meſſenger for my Good." Some Words that I ſpoke ſeemed to ſtick in them; ſo that I hope *Satan* will loſe Ground by that falſe and ill-grounded Report.

The Enemy, however, now came upon me with other Temptations, and prepared ſuch Inſtruments to deſtroy my Soul, that I feared I ſhould be overcome, and periſh at laſt; for where ever I went, the Snare was laid for me, and my Soul was ſo harraſſed with wicked Dreams, that I have often awaked, and found my Pillow wet with my Tears, after thinking that the Enemy would reaſon with me about ſome Sin I had committed in the Day; but this drove me more to Prayer, and ſhewed me my corrupt Nature in ſuch a Light, that I abhorred myſelf, and thought, the Lord never undertook to ſave one more like the Devil in Nature than I was; and it was often impreſs'd on my Mind, that if I held out to the End, I ſhould have great Reaſon to ſing louder in the Redeemer's Praiſe, than any other Soul in Heaven.

I would fain have known whether any one that had the Grace of God in him, was tempted Day and Night as I was; but my Buſineſs being altogether at the Court End of the Town, I had no one to open my Mind to. Then I took up the Bible, and after praying, open'd on theſe Words of St. *James*, *Bleſſed is the Man that endureth Temptation; for when he is tried, he ſhall receive the Crown of Glory, which the LORD hath promiſed to them that love Him.*

One Night, after a Day of Faſting, I dreamt, that I was in *Yorkſhire*, in my working Cloaths, going home; and as I went by *Paul Champion*'s, I heard a mighty Cry as of a great Multitude of People in Diſtreſs; and I ſaw, in my Dream, the large Court behind *John Rhodes*'s as full of People as they could ſtand by one another: All on a ſudden, they began to ſcream, and tumble one over another; I aſked what was the Matter; and they told me *Satan* was let looſe among them, and begged of me to get out of the Way, for he was coming; but I ſaid, "By the Grace of God, I will not turn to the Right Hand or to the Left for him." Then I thought I ſaw him in the Shape of a red Bull, that ran through the People, as a Beaſt runs through the ſtanding Corn, yet did not offer to gore any of them, but made directly at me, as if he would run his Horns into my Heart; then I cried out, "Lord, help me," and immediately caught him by the Horns, and twiſted him on his Back, ſetting my Right Foot on his Neck, in the Preſence of a Thouſand People; and I bid them cry to Jesus, aſſuring them, that what they had ſeen me do, he would give them to do. When I awoke I was in a Sweat, and my Body was as much fatigued, as if I had been hard at Labour, but my Soul filled with Joy.

A LITTLE after this, as I was reading the Scriptures, a Letter came to me: I ſaw it was not from my Wife: Then I ſaid, "I fear it is bad News." Upon opening it, one Stroke came after another: My Daughter was dead, whom I formerly idolized: My Son was ſo ill, his Life was deſpaired of: My Wife had fallen from a Horſe and was lamed: My Father-in-law was dead: And my Mother ſick. It was brought to my Mind, that I had made a Free-will Offering of my Body and Soul, Wife and Children, and all that was near and dear to me, to the LORD, when I was at the Sacrament: And now how ſhall I bear it, when the LORD is taking them at my Hand. I went to Prayers for thoſe that were left behind; and found my Heart wholly reſigned to the Will of GOD. Then it came to me, *Let the Dead bury their Dead, but follow thou me.* I began to read again; and the People of the Houſe where I was, ſcolded at me, becauſe I did not weep, wring my Hands, and ſtamp as they did, at the Loſs of a Child, ſaying I was a hard hearted Father. I then replied, "I cannot tell how to chuſe what is beſt; but GOD cannot err.

THE *May* following I was ordered to take ſome Men and go to Lord *Onſlow*'s, near *Guildford* in *Surry*, to do a Piece of Work that would laſt all Summer. This was heavy Tidings; for I thought I was but weak in Faith, and ſhould be deprived of hearing M. *Weſley*, and have no one to converſe with. I deſired to be excuſed, but all in vain. I believe I ſhould have left my Maſter; but I thought it would be unjuſt to leave him in ſuch a buſy Time, when he had kept me employ'd all that hard Winter. However, it made me cry to the LORD to go with me, and protect me from both my inward and

outward Enemies; and he was gracious to me, enabling me to reprove all that ſinned in my Preſence; ſo that a young Gentleman ſaid to ſome of the Men, "Of what Religion is your Foreman? Is he a *Baptiſt*, or is he a *Quaker?* They replied, "No, Sir; he is of the *Church of England.*" He ſaid, "He may tell you ſo; but he is no *Churchman:* For we can hardly ſpeak at Table, but he is reproving us; and if he ſay but one Word, we cannot perſwade him to drink one Glaſs more of Liquor." I overheard him, tho' he did not ſee me; and I ſaid, "Sir, you give a bad Character to the *Church of England*, if you ſay, a Man cannot be a *Churchman*, that reproves others for curſing and ſwearing, and refuſes to drink to Exceſs."

One Day the *Speaker* of the Hon. *Houſe of Commons* came to viſit my Lord; and taking a View of the Work, he aſked me many Queſtions about it, which I reſolved as well as I could. He ſaid, "This is a fine Houſe, and a fine Eſtate of Land about it! But what will it ſignify? For a Piece of Land, ſix Feet long and three Feet broad, will fit me ſhortly." He then fetched a deep Sigh, and went away, and walked alone among the Trees.

I had now Converſation with ſome *Baptiſts* in *Guildford:* But alas! their Religion lay in Notions; I found no true Experience amongſt them. I reaſoned with them about the Neceſſity of the *New-Birth*; and contended with many of other Sects, that all Religion, without the Life of Christ manifeſt in us, would profit us Nothing at laſt.

I heard that ſome, who were called ſerious People, ſaid I was a dangerous Man to converſe with; and others

ſhunned my Company after I had talked with them. Then I thought I would leave off reproving and reaſoning, for I made myſelf to be abhorred. I cried out, "LORD, ſhew me what is thy Will in this Matter;" and laid me down in great Heavineſs. That Night I dreamt, I ſaw a tall young Perſon in a white Veſture, whoſe Face ſhone like the Sun, ſtanding at the Foot of my Bed, who ſaid unto me, "Ariſe and praiſe the LORD." I thought a great Light ſhone round my Bed, by which I ſaw myſelf polluted with loathſome Filth, from the Top of my Head to the Sole of my Foot; and I ſaid, "How can ſuch an unclean Creature ſhew forth the Praiſes of GOD?" Then I thought he ſhewed me a River as clear as Chryſtal, with fine green Graſs growing at the Bottom thereof, in which he bid me waſh and be clean. I thought I went at his Bidding; and as ſoon as my Feet were dipped in the Water, the Filth dropped from my whole Body, nevertheleſs the Water was not fouled by it, at which I was ſurprized; but when I came to the Middle of the River, it was deeper than I was high, and I knew I could not ſwim, yet my Soul was ſo filled with the Senſe of GOD's Love, that my Head was kept above Water. I then thought I ſpread my Hands, like a Man that is going to ſwim; and as I laboured to ſwim, I roſe up out of the Water, and was carried as on the Wings of an Eagle above the Clouds; and cried *Hoſanna to the King of Heaven:* And tho' aſleep I ſung ſo loud, that I awaked the People of the Houſe. I now reſolved to reprove again, and ſeemed to do it with more Authority than before, and my Words began to ſtick in ſome, and cauſed them to reform their Lives.

About Michaelmas I came back to *London;* and ſeveral, that uſed to attend Mr. *Weſley*'s Preaching at *Kenington* Common and *Moorfields*, who had alſo joined with him in the *Foundery*, came to ſee me; at which I was much ſurprized, having no Correſpondence with them, any farther than ſpeaking one to another, as we went from Place to Place to hear him preach. At their firſt coming, I thought it was the Thing I longed for, often wiſhing that I had ſome Chriſtian Friends to converſe with; and now they are come. They ſaid, they heard I was come to Town, and the Love they bore me made them come to ſee me. I ſaid to them, "I thank you: Pray, how does my good Friend Mr. *Weſley* do?" They replied, "We do not know: Poor dear Man, he is wandering in the Dark, but we hope our Saviour will open his Eyes, and let him ſee, that he is a *blind Leader of the Blind.*" Their Words were as a Sword run into my Liver; and made me cry out, "Lord have Mercy upon him! What is the Matter with him?" They anſwered, "Poor dear Man, he is under the *Law*, and does not know the Privilege of the *Goſpel* himſelf; therefore he preacheth *Law* and *Works* only for Salvation." I ſaid, "Then he is ſtrangely alter'd ſince I left *London*; for then he preached *Repentance* towards God, and *Faith* in our Lord Jesus; teaching the Neceſſity of both as clearly from Scripture, as any Man in *England* could, and ſhewing the Fruits of Faith as plain as is poſſible for Man to do; and I found his Word to be more bleſſed to me, than any Man's that I ever heard in my Life." They told me that I had never heard the Goſpel in my Life, except I had heard the *Brethren*, that preached in *Fetter-lane*; for they were the Men that were come to lead them

into *true Stillneſs.*" I ſaid, "What do you mean by *true Stillneſs?* They replied, "It is to ceaſe from our own Works, ſuch as Faſting and Prayer, reading the Bible, and running to Church and Sacrament; and wholly to rely on the Blood and Wounds of the *Lamb.*" I ſaid, "I do not know that I ever heard either of the Mr. *Weſley's* bid any Man truſt in Prayer or Reading, going to Sacrament, or giving of Alms, for Salvation, either in Whole or in Part." But they anſwered, "Why doth he teach a Man to do theſe Things, if they are not to be ſaved by them?" I return'd, "If I underſtand Mr. *Weſley* right, he only ſpeaks of them as CHRIST and his Apoſtles ſpeak of them, that is, to wait in them as a Beggar waits for a Morſel at a Man's Door. I never ſpake to Mr. *Weſley* in my Life; therefore I know not what he believes any farther than by his Preaching." They told me, that moſt of the People, who had followed him before I left *London*, had forſaken him, and become *happy Sinners* now; and wiſhed I would go and hear the *Brethren*, for Mr. *Weſley* was only a *John Baptiſt* to go before, and prepare them for the *Brethren* to build up. They ſaid, "If you go to hear him, he will bring you into Bondage; and you will never be happy till you are free from the *Law*; for we were never happy till we left him and went to hear dear Mr. *Molther*; and till then we were under the *Law.*" I ſaid, "Pray were you not converted before you left Mr. *Weſley?*" They replied, "Yes; we had gone thro' a great Deal of Trouble, and found great Peace and Joy, knowing our Sins were forgiven; but when we heard Mr. *M*----*r*, we found we were yet under the *Law*; for he ſhewed the Privilege of the *Goſpel*, and we found we had not ſuch a Privilege: For if we

broke the Law in any little Matter, we were quite unhappy; or if we neglected to pray, or miſſed a Sermon or two, then we were uneaſy: But now we are happy, for the *Lamb* hath done all for us." I ſaid, "Tho' he hath done his Part, yet the Apoſtle teaches us to work out our Salvation with Fear and Trembling; and we are bid to pray always and ſearch the Scriptures. And St. *Paul* faſted often, and kept his Body in Subjection, leſt when he had preached to others, himſelf ſhould be a Caſtaway: But you are become wiſer than the Apoſtle, and have got another Goſpel; tho' he ſaith, if he or an Angel from Heaven ſhould preach another Goſpel, let him be accurſed. I am afraid you are deceived, and are ſeeking a Happineſs that is ſeparated from Holineſs: If ſo, you are led away by a deceiving Spirit; for if you can commit Sin, can break the righteous Law of GOD, and ſtill continue happy, without any Conviction that GOD is offended with you, your Conſciences are ſeared as with a hot Iron." They ſaid, "You are a poor unhappy Man, and as blind as Mr. *Weſley*;" and left me without either praying with me or for me.

WHEN I came to reaſon about what they had ſaid, and to compare it with the Words of our LORD and his Apoſtles, I ſaw that their Scheme of Salvation was as contrary to that of CHRIST, as Darkneſs is to Light.—This drove me to Prayer, and made me double my Diligence in reading the Bible.

IN a few Days after, two more, that were a little acquainted with me, came to ſee me. I aſked them, how Mr. *Weſley* was: they ſaid, they did not know, for they did not hear him now. I returned, "Why do you

not?" They replied, "He denieth the Faith of the Goſpel." I ſaid, "I am ſorry for it; but I hope you are only wrong informed." Then they anſwered, "We have heard ourſelves." I replied, "What do you call the Faith of the Goſpel?" They ſaid, "*Predeſtination* and *Election*." I told them, I thought that was not the Faith of the Goſpel; but it was rather for every one to believe in his Heart, that he is a fallen Spirit, by Nature a Child of Wrath, and by Practice an Heir of Hell; and that the eternal Son of GOD, out of Love to me, a poor helpleſs and Hell-deſerving Creature, did lay his Glory by, and for my Sake, did fulfil all Righteouſneſs, at laſt giving his Body for my Body, and his Soul for my Soul; and that GOD, for the Sake of his Obedience and Blood-ſhedding, hath forgiven all my Sins. I ſaid, according to the Light I have, this is the Faith of the Goſpel; and he that is Partaker of this Faith, hath received the Spirit of Power, of Love, and a ſound Mind; Power to deny Ungodlineſs and worldly Luſts, and to live a godly, righteous, and a ſober Life. I added, pray, under whom was you converted?" They both replied, under Mr. *Charles Weſley*. I ſaid, "Did he *then* preach what you *now* call the Faith of the Goſpel?"—They replied, No. "Did GOD then reveal that to you to be the Faith of the Goſpel, as ſoon as he wrote Pardon on your Hearts?" They ſaid, "No; when we were in our firſt Love, we believed as Mr. *Weſley* believes; but now we ſee better, and hope his Eyes will be open'd ſhortly." I ſaid, I fear yours are become dim; For I think you are more light and unwatchful than you uſed to be; and you own you have left your firſt Love. O remember, CHRIST bids you repent and do your firſt

Works, or he will remove your Candleſtick." But they told me, do what they would, they could not finally fall. I anſwered, that as far as I could learn by their Words and Behaviour, they were already fallen; and I wiſhed they did not make a CHRIST of their Opinions; for tho' I allow, many good Men hold thoſe Opinions, yet I judge, all that were converted under the two Mr. *Weſley's*, were at firſt filled with Love to every Man, and a perfect Hatred to all Sin, and were inſpired with a Zeal for GOD's Glory, and the Welfare of all Mankind.—"Was not this your State once?" They owned it was, till they heard Mr. *Sowyers*; and it was by him they ſaw into the *electing* Love of GOD. I replied, "I fear, you have ſinned againſt Light and Love; and inſtead of going back to the LORD, by true Repentance, and ſeeking a freſh Pardon in the Blood of CHRIST, you have been gadding about to ſeek new Opinions; You are gone out of the high Way of Holineſs, and are now got in the Devil's Pinfold: You are not ſeeking to perfect Holineſs in the Fear of GOD, but are reſting in Opinions, that give you Liberty to live after the Fleſh; and if you continue ſo to live, you are ſafe in his Hold, out of which you will be brought to the Slaughter." They told me I was as ſtupid as Mr. *Weſley*. I replied, *Satan* had preached that Doctrine to me before they did; and GOD had armed me againſt both him and them. Then they left me in my blind Eſtate as they called it; and I prayed, that I might never turn out of the Way that GOD had called me into.

ON Sunday I had the bleſſed Opportunity of hearing Mr. *John Weſley* once more; and his Word was precious

Food to my Soul. Then I bleſſed the LORD, that had ſtill kept his Servant as an Iron Pillar in the ſame Spirit in which I left him; but I obſerved, a great Part of the Congregation were Strangers to me, for many of the old Hearers were gone, and others come in. When I found, that ſome had turned to the *Germans*, and ſome to the *Predeſtinarians*, I ſaid, "O LORD, I will praiſe Thee, for Thou doſt all Things well: Thou by thy Providence didſt ſend me out of Town, when the Enemy was renting thy Flock to Pieces; and thereby thy Servant hath eſcaped the Snare."

A FEW Weeks after, I was at St. *Paul's*, where Mr. *John Weſley* alſo was; and I contrived to walk with him after Sacrament; for I had often wiſhed I could ſpeak with him, therefore I ſeized this Opportunity: So we continued in Diſcourſe all the Way from St. *Paul's* to the farther End of *Upper-Moorfields*; and it was a bleſſed Conference to me. When we parted, he took hold of my Hand, and looking me full in the Face, bid me take Care I did not quench the Spirit. I had not ſuch an Opportunity again while I ſtaid in *London*, either with him or his Brother; but I kept cloſe to GOD by Faſting and Prayer; and the LORD helped me through many Trials.

ONE Night, after I had been delivered from grievous Temptations, my Soul was filled with ſuch a Senſe of GOD's Love, as made me weep before him. In the Night I dreamed, I was in *Yorkſhire*, going from *Gummerſal-Hill* Top to *Cleck-heaton*; and about the Middle of the Lane, I thought I ſaw *Satan* coming to meet me in the Shape of a tall black Man, and the Hair of his Head like

Snakes: But I thought I was not afraid at all; and I ſaid, "Stand by me, O LORD, and I will not turn to the Right Hand or to the Left;" yet I thought I would not ſtand to fight with him as I uſed to do: When he came within about five Paces of me, he ſtood; but I went on, ript open my Cloaths, and ſhewed him my naked Breaſt, ſaying, "See, HERE is the Blood of CHRIST." Then I thought he fled from me as faſt as a Hare could run.

I WAS ſtill attacked by the *Moravians* on one Side, and the *Preſbyterians* on the other; but the LORD enabled me to ſtop their Mouths, and to ſhew them that they had loſt their firſt Love: Yet they ſeemed to be hardened, and paſt all Conviction; and the more I read the Scriptures, the more I was confirmed they were fallen into carnal Security; which made me pray more earneſtly, that GOD would preſerve me from all the Snares of the Devil.

ABOUT ten Days before Chriſtmas, I went to St. *Paul's*, and while I was at the Communion Table, I felt ſuch an awful Senſe of GOD reſt upon me, that my Heart was like melting Wax before him; and all my Prayer was, "Thy Will be done; thy Will be done." I was ſo diſſolved into Tears of Love, that I could ſcarce take the Bread; and after I had received, it was impreſſed upon my Mind, "I muſt go into *Yorkſhire* directly." But I ſaid in myſelf, "If I do, it will be Ten Pounds out of my Way." I had determined to go at *May* Day; but I thought, to ſtay for the Sake of Money would be wrong, when I believed it was the Will of GOD I ſhould go. So I packed up my Cloaths, and ſet out. I found

much of the LORD's Preſence all the Way I went; but I had no more Thought of Preaching, than I had of eating Fire.

WHEN I got home, I was greatly diſappointed; for I expected to find many of my Relations converted, as I underſtood they attended Mr. *Ingham*'s Preaching. But when I told them what it was to be converted, they ſaid they never heard of ſuch a Thing in their Lives. I told them, I knew thoſe Things by happy Experience: But they begged, I would not tell any one that my Sins were forgiven; for no one would believe me; and they ſhould be aſhamed to ſhew their Faces in the Street. I ſaid, I ſhould not be aſhamed to tell what GOD had done for my Soul, if I could ſpeak loud enough for all the Men in the World to hear me at once. My Mother ſaid, my Head was turned. I replied, "Yes, and my Heart too, I thank the LORD." My Wife told me, ſhe was aſhamed to put her Head out of Doors, for every one was talking about me, and upbraiding her with my Sayings; and ſhe wiſhed I had ſtaid at *London*; for ſhe could not live with me, if I went on as I did: For which Reaſon, ſhe deſired, that I would leave off abuſing my Neighbours, or go back to *London*. I told her, I did not care what all the People could ſay; for I was determined to reprove any one that ſinned in my Preſence. Then ſhe cried, and ſaid, I did not love her as well as I uſed to do. I replied, "Yes, I love Thee better than ever I did in my Life: And thou haſt no Reaſon to diſpute my Love; for I have been careful to provide for Thee, whether I was at home or abroad; and we have been happy in each other upwards of twelve

Years: But if Thou ſeek for Redemption in the Blood of CHRIST, we ſhall be ten Times happier than ever." She then ſaid, "Nay, my Happineſs with Thee is over; for according to thy Words, I am a Child of the Devil, and Thou a Child of GOD." Then ſhe wept, and ſaid, "I cannot live with Thee." I ſaid, "Why ſo? Thou ſhalt never want while I am able by honeſt Endeavours to provide for Thee. Nay, I continued, if Thou wilt not go to Heaven with me, I will do the beſt I can for Thee; only I will not go to Hell with Thee for Company: But I believe, GOD will hear my Prayer, and convert thy Soul, and make Thee a bleſſed Companion for me to Heaven." After this, my Wife began to be concerned about the Salvation of her Soul.

A FEW Days after I got home, *David Taylor* came to preach in our Town, in Mr. *Ingham*'s Society, when I went to hear him; and a dry Morſel his Sermon was.—Several that were acquainted with him followed me, and wanted to know how I liked the Diſcourſe. I was backward to tell them: But they preſſed hard on me, and ſaid, "Do you not think he is as good a Preacher as Mr. *Weſley*?" I ſaid, "There is no Compariſon between his Preaching and Mr. *Weſley*'s: He hath not ſtaid long enough in the large Room at *Jeruſalem*." After they had been gone ſometime, they came again to aſk what I meant? I ſaid, "He is not endued with Power from on High." They went and related to him what I ſaid; and he told me ſince, that if I had been preſent, he could have ſtabb'd me: Yet he could not reſt till he went to hear Mr. *Weſley* at *London*. Then he found what I ſaid was true; and he came down to *Sheffield* and into *Derbyſhire*, preaching what he called *Weſley*'s

Doctrine, and awakened and converted many Scores of People, till the *Germans* got to him, and made him deny the *Law* of God; then he became again as Salt without Savour.

I went afterwards to a Meeting of Mr. *Ingham's*, where one read in an old Book for near an Hour; then ſung an Hymn, and read a Form of Prayer. I told them that Way would never convert Sinners; and began to relate ſome of my Experience; and ſeveral were ſtruck with Convictions while I was ſpeaking; ſome of whom are Witneſſes of the ſame Grace, that God ſhewed me.

In a little Time, all I ſaid was noiſed abroad; and People of all Denominations came to diſpute with me. As ſoon as I came home from Work, my Houſe was filled with People, which made my Wife uneaſy; for ſhe could do no Work, and did not yet believe what I ſaid was true.

Generally when I came in and ſat down, ſome one would aſk me a Queſtion, and others would begin to diſpute with me, while others ſtood to hear.

When any began to cavil, I commonly aſked, what *Church* they belonged to: And if they ſaid, the *Church of England;* then I replied, "Do you know your Sins forgiven?" Several ſaid, "No, nor ever expect to know it in this World." Then I ſaid, "You are no Members of the *Church of England*, if you have not a full Truſt and Confidence, that God for Christ's Sake hath forgiven you. Read the Homilies of the Church, and you will ſee what I ſay is true." I uſed to have the Bible and Common Prayer-Book by me; and I ſhewed them the Articles of the Church, ſaying, "You deny Inſpira-

tion; and the Church you profeſs to belong to, ſays, *Before the Grace of* CHRIST, *and the Inſpiration of his Spirit, no good Works can be done.*" So if the Church ſpeak right, you muſt be inſpired by the Spirit of CHRIST to enable you to bring forth good Fruit, or you muſt be the Fuel of Hell. And how dare you pray to have your Thoughts cleanſed by the Inſpiration of GOD's holy Spirit, if you do not believe there is any ſuch Thing to be attained in this World? O! do not mock GOD any more, by aſking for Things with your Mouths, when you do not believe in your Hearts he will grant them." But one ſaid, he had been with a very learned Clergyman of a neighbouring Church, and he told him, there was no ſuch Thing to be attained in this Life. I ſaid, "I think, you have miſtaken him, for I was at that Church laſt Sunday, and heard him declare all I have ſaid to you. He ſaid, "I was there, and heard no ſuch Thing mentioned." I replied, "No! did you not hear him affirm, that GOD had given Power and Commandment to his Miniſters, to declare and pronounce to his People, being penitent, the Abſolution of their Sins? And he farther declared, that GOD pardoneth and abſolveth all thoſe, that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his Goſpel. Therefore it is plain, you never did repent, or unfeignedly believe the Goſpel; if GOD has not pardoned and abſolved you from your Sins. Elſe both he and all that are in Prieſts Orders in *England*, are falſe Witneſſes before GOD and Man. And how many Times have you beſought GOD to give you true Repentance; and to forgive you all your Sins, Negligences and Ignorances; and to endue you with the Grace of his Holy Spirit, that you might amend your Ways, according to his holy Word? And now

you ſay there is no ſuch Thing! Tho' you may remember, Mr. *R*——*s* ſaid, "Let us beſeech God to grant us true Repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that thoſe Things may pleaſe him, which we do at this preſent; and that the reſt of our Lives may be pure and holy."

By theſe Diſcourſes, many were pricked to the Heart, and durſt not offer the Sacrifice of Fools any more; but prayed in good Earneſt, for God to pardon their Sins, and to anſwer them in the Joy of their Hearts.

When any ſaid, they were of the *Church of Scotland*; I aſked them, if they did not know their Sins forgiven? They told me, that they did not; nay, farther, they thought it Preſumption for any one to pretend to know it, or to expect ſuch high Attainments as I ſpoke of; and they told me I was a *Papiſt*, or I would not talk as I did. I ſaid, "I know not what *you* think of me; but I think, you neither know what a *Papiſt* or a *Preſbyterian* is: for your own Mouths declare, that you are no Members of the *Church of Scotland:* That Church diſowns you; for none are allowed Members thereof, but thoſe that are effectually called; and they, that are effectually called, do in this Life partake of *Juſtification*, *Adoption*, and *Sanctification*. And the ſame Church ſaith, that *Juſtification* is an Act of God's *free Grace*, wherein he pardoneth all our Sins; *Adoption* is an Act of God's *free Grace*, by which we are received into the Number, and have a Right to all the Privileges, of God's Sons; and that *Sanctification* is the Work of God's *free Grace*, whereby we are renewed in the whole Man, after the Image of God: And all that are ſo effectually called, do enjoy an Aſſurance of God's Love, Peace of Conſcience, and Joy in

the Holy Ghoſt. And I pray you, what have I ſaid more? By your talking, you are the *Sons of Rome*, and Enemies to the true *Proteſtant Religion*. Let me beg you to go home, and read the Aſſembly's Catechiſm, and come and talk with me again, after you have read it." Several of them did ſo; and came with Tears in their Eyes; and are now Witneſſes, that GOD has Power on Earth to forgive Sins.

I FOUND it always in my Mind, not to let any depart that came to diſpute with me, till we had prayed together.

THE firſt that was brought to experience the redeeming Love of CHRIST, was my own Brother; and in a few Days Six of my Neighbours.

MY Wife alſo was thoroughly convinced, that ſhe muſt experience the ſame Work of Grace, or periſh. And during the Time of her Convictions, ſhe was ſeized with a Pleuritic Fever; and her Caſe was thought to be very dangerous: Then I beſought the LORD for her with Faſting and Prayer. The next Day ſhe was worſe; and the Diſtreſs of her Soul increaſed the Diſorder of her Body; ſo that ſhe ſeemed as if ſhe could not ſubſiſt long. That Night my Houſe was filled with People, and none of them offered to diſpute with me: But I read ſeveral Portions of Scripture to them, ſome out of the Old, ſome out of the New Teſtament, and compared one with another, and prayed with them. As I was in Prayer, my Wife being in the Parlour, but within Hearing, fainted, and was as if ſhe had juſt ſunk into the Gulph of GOD's Judgments: Immediately ſhe thought ſhe felt the LORD JESUS catch her as ſhe was falling; and lay his Hand

on her Side, where her Diſorder was, and bid her be of good Comfort; thy Sins are forgiven. When I came to the Bed-ſide, ſhe was juſt come to herſelf, and ſaid, "My Dear, the LORD hath healed me both in Body and Soul; and I will get up and praiſe his holy Name; and ſo ſhe did; and her Fever ceaſed from that Hour; and her Heart was filled with Peace and Love.

NOW GOD had raiſed up eight Witneſſes to himſelf in this Place; and the Enemies began to report, that I had forgiven ſuch and ſuch their Sins. But this made many come to talk with me.

ONE Night I went to *Adwalton*, to hear Mr. *Ingham* preach. As ſoon as I got into the Houſe, he called me into the Parlour, and deſired the Company that was with him to go out, for he had ſomething to ſay to me. When they went out, he roſe up, barred the Door, then he ſat down by me, and aſked me how my Wife did? When I had told him, he ſaid, "Do you know your own Heart, think you? I ſaid, "Not rightly: But I know JESUS CHRIST; and He knows, and hath taken Poſſeſſion of it: And though it be deceitful, yet he can ſubdue it to himſelf; and I truſt he will." He ſaid, "Have you not deceived yourſelf with thinking that your Sins are forgiven, and that you are in a State of Grace?" I was three Years ſeeking before I found him." I ſaid, "Suppoſe you were, do you confine GOD to be three Years in converting every Soul, becauſe you was ſo long? GOD is as able to convert a Soul in three Days now, as he was to convert St. *Paul* 1700 Years ago."— I then began to tell him what I had ſeen at *London* under Mr. *Weſley*'s Preaching. He ſaid, he pitied poor Mr.

Weſley; for he was ignorant of his own State; and ſpoke as if he believed Mr. *Weſley* to be an unconverted Man: at which Words my corrupt Nature began to ſtir. But it came to my Mind, the Wrath of Man worketh not the Righteouſneſs of God; and I lifted up my Heart to the Lord, and my Mind was calm in a Moment. He ſaid, "You ought not to tell People, that they may know their Sins forgiven; for the World cannot bear it: And if ſuch a Thing was preached, it would raiſe Perſecution." I ſaid, "Let them quake that fear. By the Grace of God, I love every Man, but fear no Man: And I will tell all I can, that there is ſuch a Prize to run for: If I hide it, Miſchief will come upon me. There is a Famine in the Land; and I ſee myſelf in the Caſe of one of the Lepers, that were at the Gates of *Samaria*, who found Proviſion in the Enemy's Camp: And when they had eat and drank, and loaded themſelves, ſaid, *We do not do well; for this is a Day of glad Tidings: Let us go, and make it known to the King's Houſhold:* When I found God's Wrath removed for the Sake of his dear Son, and Proviſion enough for my poor fainting Soul, and for all the World, if they would come for it. I believe it is a Sin, not to declare to the Children of Men, what God hath done for my Soul, that they may ſeek for the ſame Mercy." He told me, I had nothing to do with the *Old Teſtament*, or to make Compariſons from any Thing that was in it. But I ſaid, I had as much to do with it, as with the *New Teſtament*. He replied, "I would not have you ſpeak any more to the People, till you are better acquainted with your own Heart." I told him, I would not in his Societies, unleſs I was deſired: But what I did in my own Houſe, or in any others, that re-

queſted me, he had no Buſineſs with; for I ſaid, "I do not belong to you; and tho' I have heard you ſeveral Times, it was no Benefit to me; for I had experienced more of the Grace of GOD, before I ſaw your Face, than ever I heard you preach of yet, or any one ſince I left *London*."

SOON after, he came out and began to preach; when I was greatly ſurprized; for what he had forbidden me to do, he did directly: He told them that Night, they muſt know their Sins forgiven in this World, or go to Hell, if all the Devils in Hell could pull them in.

I STILL went on at my own Houſe, as before, every Night; and in about three Weeks, my Eight were increaſed to Seventeen.

As I was about explaining the 7th Chapter of the *Romans*, my Mother fell into deep Convictions, and cried, "I am a loſt Sinner." I went to Prayers with her; and ſhe neither eat pleaſant Bread, or took natural Reſt, till ſhe found Redemption in the Blood of CHRIST. Then ſhe came to me with Tears of Joy, and ſaid, "Thank GOD on my Behalf, for he hath dealt bountifully with me. When thou waſt a Lad, I had more Trouble with thee, than any other Child; but GOD hath more than rewarded me for all my Trouble, in that he hath raiſed thee up to ſhew me the Way of Salvation." She lived about ſix Months after; and then died in the Triumph of Faith. She was the firſt ripe Fruit, that GOD gave me of my Labour.

SOON after, another of my Brothers, my Aunt, and two Couſins, were converted; tho' ſtill I did not attempt

to preach, but read ſome Part of Scripture, then exhorted them to obſerve what they had heard; and ſo ended with Prayer. And GOD wrought in a wonderful Manner; for ſix or ſeven were converted in a Week, for ſeveral Weeks together. All this Time, I had no one to converſe with, except ſuch as wanted to turn me out of the narrow Path; neither had I any Correſpondence with Mr. *Weſley*; but ſtill I was as one ſet to labour in a Field alone.

AFTER ſometime, *Peter Bohler* came into *Yorkſhire*, and laboured while Mr. *Ingham* went to *London*. I heard him, and he pleaſed me well; for at that Time he ſpake to the Purpoſe. When he had done, I went and took him by the Hand, and thanked him for his wholſome Exhortation. He aſked me my Name? I told him: He kiſſed me, and ſaid, "My Brother, I am glad to ſee you; for I have juſt now been talking with ſome, that told me they were converted by you; and I like them better than any Souls I have converſed with, ſince I came to *Yorkſhire*." And he added, "I will call to ſee you, when I come to *Birſtal*." So he did, and ſtaid with me all Night; and he did not offer to turn me out of the Way GOD had called me into, but encouraged me to ſpeak on, and ſpare none; for, he added, "The LORD hath called you to labour in his Vineyard; and if you do not labour, he will call you to Judgment for it." I told him, that Mr. *Ingham* had forbidden me: But he ſaid, "He will be back from *London* in three Weeks, when I will ſpeak to him; for I know, that GOD is with you; and I will call on you, whenever I come through this Town." So he did at that Seaſon; and his Converſation was profitable to me, for he then ſpoke as contra-

ry to the *Moravians*, who are in *London*, as black is to white. God bleſſed his Word; for many were awakened by him, at his firſt coming into *Yorkſhire*.

When Mr. *Ingham* came back from *London*, he came to Brother *Mitchell*'s in our Town, and ſent for me. I think there were above twenty-three in the Chamber with us; and he came and kiſſed me, as ſoon as I came in, deſiring me to ſit down by him; and he ſaid, "*John* I believe God hath called you to ſpeak his Word; for I have ſpoken with ſeveral ſince I came back from *London*, that I believe have received Grace ſince I went; and I ſee God is working in a ſhorter Manner, than he did with us at the Beginning; and I ſhould be ſorry to hinder any one from doing Good." He ſaid alſo to the Brethren and Siſters, "Before you all, I give *John* Leave to exhort in all my Societies;" and he took me by the Hand, ſaying, "*John*, God hath given you great Honour, in that he hath made uſe of you, to call Sinners to the Blood of our Saviour: And I deſire you to exhort in all my Societies, as often as you can."

I did ſo; and many were ſtruck to the Heart, and and were made to cry out, "Lord, ſave, or we periſh!" So that nine or ten in a Week, were brought to experience the dying Love of Jesus; and thoſe that were of the *Church of England*, to keep cloſe to the *Church* and *Sacrament*; and the *Diſſenters*, to keep to their own *Meetings*, and to let their Light ſhine before thoſe of their own Community.

I found by ſome, that Mr. *Ingham* adviſed them the contrary; and ſeveral began to ſtay at Home on the *Sabbath*, and to get into the Way of holding their Hats

on, and Canting, as thoſe that I had talked with in *London*. It made me very uneaſy, to ſee them in ſuch a Deluſion.

One Night I had been diſputing with ſeveral of them, about their neglecting the Ordinances, and their ſpeaking againſt *inward Holineſs*, as we were going to hear *Peter Bohler*, at *Charles Summerſcales*'s: And when he got up, he took two Verſes of the tenth Chapter of St. *Mathew*'s Goſpel: *Whoſoever therefore ſhall confeſs me before Men, him will I confeſs before my Father which is in Heaven: But whoſoever ſhall deny me before Men, him alſo will I deny before my Father, which is in Heaven.* I thought if he had heard all that I had ſaid, and had laboured to juſtify every Word I had ſpoken, he could not have preached more to the Purpoſe; for he ſaid to confeſs Jesus, was to live to him, and to honour him with Body, Soul, and Subſtance; and to deny him, was to live to ourſelves, by refuſing to do what he had commanded, becauſe it was not agreeable to Nature, and did not make for our temporal Intereſt, and he added, if any one did ſo much as keep the Tip of his little Finger, to commit Sin with, it would damn both his Body and Soul in Hell."

My Adverſaries now hung down their Heads; and Complaint was made to Mr. *Telchig*, that he preached *Wefley*'s Doctrine: And he was ſent to *London* ſoon after. He came back in three Weeks Time; but ſuch a Change for the worſe, did I never ſee in mortal Man: For he, that profeſſed to love me as his own Soul, durſt not come near the Door of my Houſe, nor converſe with me at all; and his Word was as Chaff, in Compariſon of what it uſed to be.

THEN I ſaw what was coming on me, and the People GOD had given me. This made me weep in ſecret Places, before the LORD; and I deſired to die, rather than to live, to ſee the Children devoured by theſe *Boars* out of the *German Wood*. I ſaw many deluded by their ſoft Words, and fair Speeches; and I thought, I would exhort no more; for I was begetting Children; and they ſlew them among the ſmooth Stones of the Brook; and they had better never have known the Way of Salvation, than after knowing it be turned thereout. But *Samuel Mitchell* urged me to ſpeak, and not to ſpare. Yet I found great Backwardneſs; and often ſaid, when I went out of my Door, "LORD, thou knoweſt I had rather be hanged on that Tree, than go to preach, but that I believe thou doſt require it at my Hand." And many a Time, I have ſaid, "Except ſome one be converted this Time, I will take it for granted, that I may leave off ſpeaking in thy Name:" But, O the Condeſcenſion of the Moſt High! For he ſo far bore with my Weakneſs, that ſome were converted as ſure as I aſked the Token. For all that, I acted the Part of *Jonah*, and fled into the Fields by a Wood Side, when a great Congregation was gather'd together, and begged me to preach to them. But the Hand of the LORD was upon me; and I fell flat on my Face on the Ground, and I thought, that if ever a living Man taſted the Cup of the damn'd, I did: And I cried out, "Let me die; let me die; for why ſhould I live, to ſee the Deſtruction of thy People? Or wherefore ſhould I ever ſpeak in thy Name; and by thy Word beget Children for the Slaughter." I lay about an Hour with my Face on the Graſs: But O the Anguiſh

my Soul was in! The Sufferings of our LORD were brought to my Mind, and of his Apoſtles, and of *Jeremiah* whoſe Cup I had once deſired at the LORD's Hand. But now, when it was in a ſmall Degree put into my Hand, I choſe rather to die than to drink it.

I NOW began to be aſhamed before the LORD, when I had conſider'd how wonderfully he had dealt with me; ſo that the Tears began to flow, and my Heart was broken within me. Then I ſaid, "I am not my own, but thine; therefore, thy Will be done in me, on me, and by me." In that Inſtant the Cloud broke, and the Sun of Righteouſneſs aroſe on my Soul; ſo that I cried out, "LORD, continue with me, as thou art now, and I am ready to go to Hell to preach to Devils, if thou requireſt it." Then I came home, expecting the People to be gone; but they were waiting about the Door of my Houſe. I got up and preached to them, and that Night two Men declared, that GOD for CHRIST's Sake had forgiven all their Sins.

I THOUGHT, after I had done, if I had had 10l. I would have given it for one Hour's Converſation with Mr. *John Weſley*; but I deſpaired of ever having an Opportunity, except I went to *London* on Purpoſe; and I ſaid, "I am not worthy of an upright Man to converſe with; therefore I am encompaſſed about with Briars and Thorns.'

AFTER ſome Time, I was told, that there were twenty Preachers come to the *Smith-houſe*; and that four or five of them were Clergymen, that had been with Mr. *Weſley*; but they were now convinced of his Errors, and were content to be poor Sinners; and they hoped

I ſhould ſee my Error in a little Time, and come to the Brethren; for all of them had been as blind, they ſaid, as I was, and as much biggotted to Mr. *Weſley*'s Notions. I told them, that what they called Light, I believed to be groſs Darkneſs; for it did not agree with what the Scriptures ſhewed, to be the Way to Heaven. One of their Exhorters ſaid to me, that there were ſeveral of the *Moravian* Preachers could write as good Scriptures as the Bible; that the very Power, that the Apoſtles had, did reſt on the *Moravian* Preachers. I told him, I did not believe a Word of it: I believed them to be a fallen People; and I prayed God to give them Repentance, and to do their firſt Works. I ſaid, "I am ſorry for Mr. *Ingham*; for he never will do half ſo much good as he has done hurt, by bringing them into this Country; for they do not labour to convert Sinners, but to turn Saints out of the Way that leads to Heaven." But he ſaid, it was I that was wrong; for they were the moſt experienced Men in the World: And it was believed by many, that Count *Zinzendorf*, was ſo familiar with the Lamb, that many Hundreds, who were now in Hell, would be ſaved by his Prayers.

A few Days after, they were to have a great Meeting at *Gumberſal-field-houſe*: And one came and told me, that Mr. *Ingham* deſired me to be there. And I went, but could not get into the Houſe, where they were reading the Letters, nor near the Door, for the Multitude; ſo I walk'd into the *Croft*. And I believe there were two hundred People there, who had gone from the Door, becauſe they could not hear; and I preached to them in the *Croft*, while they read the Letters within. And when they had done, they ſent for me into the Chamber. I

think, there were five or ſix Preachers, and four Exhorters, and near an hundred People, who were looked upon, as the Chief of their Societies. Then Mr. *Ingham* ſtood up, and ſaid, that the Country People were ſurprized to ſee ſo many of the Brethren come together; they thought it prudent, not to have ſo much Preaching, till they were ſettled a while, for fear it ſhould make them perſecute the Brethren; "And I deſire, that none of the young Men will expound, till they are ordered by the Brethren: We ſhall meet again this Day Month; and then we will let you know, what you are all to do." Then he ſpake to them, one by one, and ſaid, "I hope you will be obedient, and not expound any more, till you have Orders." They all replied, "Yes, Sir." He then turned to me, ſaying, "*John*, I hope you will leave off, till you have Orders from the *Church*? I ſaid," No, Sir; I will not leave off; I dare not; for I did not begin by the Order of Man, nor by my own Will; therefore I ſhall not leave off by your Order: For I tell you plainly, I ſhould have left off without your bidding, but that I believed if I did, I ſhould be damned for Diſobedience." He replied, "You ſee theſe young Men are obedient to the Elders; and they have been bleſſed in their Labours, as well as you." I ſaid, I cannot tell how they have been bleſſed; but I think, if God had ſent them on his own Errand, they would not ſtop at your bidding." Then one of the Preachers ſaid, "The Spirit of the Prophets is ſubject to the Prophets; therefore they are right, and you are wrong; for they are ſubject." I ſaid, "You are not obedient to the Prophets of God that were of old: For God ſaith by one of them, *I have ſet Watchmen upon the Walls of Jeruſalem, that ſhall not ceaſe Day or Night:* But you can hold your

Peace for a Month together, at Man's bidding." Then turning to Mr. *Ingham*, I ſaid, "You know that many have been converted, by my exhorting lately, and a great many are under Convictions: What a ſad Thing then would it be, to leave them as they are?" He replied, "Our Saviour can convert Souls without your Preaching." I ſaid, "Yes, or yours either: And he can give us Corn without plowing and ſowing; but he doth not, neither hath he promiſed that he will." Then he ſaid, "Be ſtill one Month; and you will know more of your own Heart." I replied, "With one Proviſo, I will." He ſaid, "What is that?" I anſwered, "If you can perſwade the Devil to be ſtill for a Month: But if he goes about like a roaring Lion, ſeeking whom he may devour, and GOD hath put a Sword into my Hand, I am determined to attack him, whereſoever I meet him; and whereſoever I meet Sin, I meet *Satan*." Then ſome of them ſaid, that their Ears burned on their Heads, to hear me ſpeak ſo to ſuch a Gentleman as Mr. *Ingham*. I told them, I would ſpeak to a Gentleman as I would to a Beggar, in the Cauſe of GOD. Mr. *Ingham* ſaid, *It muſt needs be that Offences come; but Wo to him by whom they do come.* I replied, "Sir, take Care that your Curſe do not fall on your own Head." Then he charged all the People, as they loved him and the *Brethren*, that they ſhould not let me preach in their Houſes, or encourage me, by hearing me elſewhere. Then I ſaid, "I hope you will not hinder thoſe, who were converted under my Word, from hearing me; for they are my own Children." He ſaid, they would hinder them; for they were none of mine, but our Saviour's Children. I anſwered, "I have as much Right to call them my Chil-

dren, as St. *Paul* had to call the *Galatians* his; and if they periſh, by being turned out of the Way thro' you, I will require their Blood at your Hand." Then Mr. *Clapham* ſaid, "May not I have ſome private Converſation with *John*?" Mr. *Ingham* ſaid, "Yes." And Mr. *Clapham* ſaid, "He ſhall be my Teacher while I live:" So it was; for he died in the Faith within a Fortnight.

When I got home, there were ſeveral People at my Houſe, waiting to be inſtructed in the Way to the Kingdom. One of them ſaid, "What is the Matter? Are you not well? you look ſo pale!" I ſaid, "I have neither Pain nor Sickneſs of Body; but my Soul is diſordered within me, for they have bereaved me of my Children, and commanded them not to hear me, before my Face. O! theſe treacherous Dealers have dealt treacherouſly! I am ſorry, Mr. *Ingham* ſhould be a Tool in their Hands, to turn the Simple out of the Way; but I hope he does it in Ignorance; if he knows what he is doing, he will be a miſerable Man: For it is a leſs Crime to take a Child of God, and cut his Throat, and thereby ſend him to Heaven at once, than to turn him out of the Way, and to deſtroy both Body and Soul: nevertheleſs, let us pray for him and them." So we went to Prayer; and when we aroſe from our Knees, I took the Bible, requeſting God to ſpeak to me by his Word; I opened on the 49th Chapter of *Iſaiah*, and the 19th Verſe, *For thy waſte and thy deſolate Places, and the Land of thy Deſtruction, ſhall even now be too narrow, by Reaſon of the Inhabitants: And they that ſwallowed thee up, ſhall be far away: The Children, which thou ſhalt have after thou haſt loſt the other, ſhall ſay again in thine Ears, the Place is too ſtreight for me: give Place to me, that I may dwell. Then ſhalt*

thou ſay in thine Heart, who hath begotten me theſe, ſeeing I have loſt my Children, and am deſolate, a Captive, removing to and fro; and who hath brought up theſe? Behold, I was left alone; theſe, where had they been? At the Reading of which Words, I and all that were in the Houſe were ſo affected, that we burſt out into Weeping: And God gave me one Child, in Anſwer to my Prayer that Night.

It was ſoon ſpread abroad, that Mr. *Ingham* and *Nelſon* had differed; and many ſaid, "We ſhall now ſee an End of this *new* Religion!" Several of them, who *once* profeſſed to love me as their own Lives, *now* became my open Enemies, and laboured to draw all from me they could. They ſaid, I made my Bible my God, and would take it up in a ſcornful Manner, ſaying, "This is *John Nelſon's* God! Poor Man, he hurts himſelf much by reading in it; it would be better for him, if he would let it alone, and abide by his own Heart."

Then I ſaid, "Wo is me, that ever my Mother bare me, to be a Man of Strife to all that are about me: But, Lord, I commit my Cauſe to Thee."

So I went on preaching Repentance towards God, and Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; inſiſting on thoſe that believed, to be careful to maintain good Works. But many, that once ſaid they might bleſs God they ever heard me, now called me *legal;* and told me to my Face, that I never knew the *Goſpel Liberty*, nor what it was to enjoy the *poor Sinnerſhip*. I replied, "I do not deſire to know it; I only want to know the perfect and acceptable Will of God, and Power to do the ſame." They ſaid, they had *nothing* to do, for the *Lamb* had done *all* for them.

After their next monthly Meeting, one that had exhorted, came and called me out of my Houſe, ſaying, he wanted to ſpeak with me. I went out; when he told me the *Brethren* had ſent him; and they had the ſame Power as the *Apoſtles* had; all that withſtood them were ſoon miſerable. I ſaid, "What do you hubble at in your Speech? If you came to tell me, that they have given me up into the Hands of the Devil, ſpeak out, *Michael!*" He ſaid, they had. I replied, "I hope I ſhall pray for them as long as I live: But go you back, and tell them, I have the Devil under my Heel; and he can never hurt me, ſo long as I have the Grace of God."

Soon after I met with another, that had got into the *poor Sinnerſhip*, who held his Neck on one Side, and talked, as if he had been bred upon the Borders of *Bohemia*; and he ſaid, the *Brethren* were ſorry for me: Nay he heard ſome of them ſay, that they would take care of my Wife and Children; I told him, I would ſee my Wife and Children die on a Dunghill, before I would ſell my Soul, and the Souls of my Country People.

I still kept cloſe to God by Prayer and Faſting; and was daily refreſhed with a Senſe of his Love; and he opened my Mouth more and more, to ſpeak his Word; and Sinners were converted.

Samuel Mitchell encouraged me much; and went with me, almoſt every Night that I went out of Town, often four or five Miles, after we had done our Work, and we uſed to come back together the ſame Night, in all Sorts of Weather.

One Night after a Day of Faſting, I dreamt, that Mr. *John* and Mr. *Charles Weſley* were both ſitting by my Fire-ſide; and Mr. *John* ſaid, "I will but ſtay a few Days now, for I will go into the *North*, and return at ſuch a Time, and then ſtay with you a Week." The next Day, when I told it, one ſaid, "If thou haſt dreamed ſo, they will certainly come." I replied, "I can no more expect them, than I expect the King to come:" But a few Months after they did, and ſat in the very Poſture I dreamed; and Mr. *John* ſpoke the very Words.

I was deſired once more, to go to *Gumberſal-field Head*, to ſpeak with Mr. *Ingham*; and when I got there, *David Taylor* was with him in the Parlour, and ſpoke kindly to me; but when Mr. *Taylor* was gone, he began to talk to me, about making Diviſion among the *Brethren*. I told him I did not want to make Diviſion; I wanted the People to be ſaved. But he ſaid, "We cannot receive you or Mr. *Weſley* into our Community, till he publicly declare he has printed falſe Doctrine, and you declare you have preached falſe." I ſaid, "Wherein?" He then burſt out into Laughter, and ſaid, "In telling the People, that they may live without committing Sin." I replied, "Do you call that falſe Doctrine?" He ſaid, "I do; and Mr. *Weſley* has written falſe Doctrine, teaching the ſame Errors." He quoted ſome Words: Then I ſaid, "They are not Mr. *Weſley*'s, but St. *John*'s Words: It is St. *John* who ſays, *Let no Man deceive you: He that doth Righteouſneſs, is righteous; and he that committeth Sin, is of the Devil.* So if St. *John* be right, every one that preacheth contrary to what Mr. *Weſley* has written here, and what I have preached, he is a Deceiver, and a Betrayer of Souls." He ſaid, "If that be your Opinion, we cannot

receive you into our Church." I replied, "I don't want to be one of you; for I am a Member of the *Church of England*." He ſaid, "The *Church of England* is no Church; WE are the Church!" I ſaid, "WE! who do you mean?" He replied, "I and the *Moravian Brethren*." I ſaid, "I have no Deſire to have any Fellowſhip with you or them; it is better for my own Soul, ſince I have been wholly ſeparated from you; and GOD hath bleſt my Labour more, ſince I was told they had delivered me up to *Satan*, than ever before: Therefore I think it is better to have their Curſe, than to have Communion with them." He replied, "If you think ſo, I have no more to ſay to you." And then turned his Back on me.

WHEN I went home, I met with one that had got into the *Liberty*; and he told me, that the Devil had ſent me into *Yorkſhire*, to hinder the *Brethren* from having the Country to themſelves. I anſwered, "If *Satan* ſent me, he is divided againſt himſelf; for you know, by my Preaching many are turned, that were groſsly wicked, to live a righteous Life." He ſaid, no Men ſhould be damned, but for their own Righteouſneſs: And when I mentioned any Scripture, he laughed me to Scorn, ſaying, "You will never be happy till you leave off thoſe Scripture Notions, and come to your own Heart, and be a *poor Sinner*."

Now a Trial came upon me, from another Quarter: Some of them came to my Houſe, when I was from home, and talked with my Wife, ſtirring her up againſt me, ſo that ſhe was tempted to go to them, and leave me; and the Temptation was ſo ſtrong, that ſhe got out of Bed three Times, to go to them; nay, the more I rea-

ſoned with her from Scripture, in ever ſo loving a Manner, the more ſhe was ſet againſt me: Then I had none but my old Refuge, to get to GOD by Prayer and Faſting; and the LORD took the Matter into his own Hand, and ſhewed her, wherein ſhe had been deceived, and made her a Staff in my Hand, and a Support to my Soul again.

ABOUT this Time, one of my Neighbours, that uſed to hear me preach, was going to *London*, and ſaid, "I ſhould be glad to ſee Mr. *John Weſley*, whom you call your Father in the Goſpel." I replied, "If you will carry a few Lines for me to him, you may ſee and hear him too." So he did; wherein I deſired Mr. *Weſley* to write to me; and as he was my Father in the Goſpel, to give me ſome Inſtructions how to proceed, in the Work that GOD had begun to do by ſuch an unpoliſhed Tool as me. When he got to *London*, he wrote to me, that he had ſeen Mr. *Weſley*, and given him the Letter; who read it, and aſked him ſome Queſtions about me, and ſaid, "Do you write by this Night's Poſt, and tell him I ſhall be at his Houſe on Tueſday next, (if GOD permit.)" I got the Letter on Sunday, and was melted into Tears before the LORD.

THAT Day the LORD bleſſed our Souls much, while we were praying that he would conduct his Servant in Safety to us, and bleſs his Coming amongſt us; but he was detained on the Road, ſo that it was Wedneſday at Nine o'Clock in the Forenoon when he arrived at *Birſtal*. He ſent for me to the Inn, from whence I conducted him to my Houſe, and he ſat down by my Fire-ſide, in

the very Poſture I had dreamed about four Months before; and ſpoke the ſame Words I dreamed he ſpoke.

Before he went to *Newcaſtle*, large Companies of thoſe that had left me, came to hear him; ſeveral of whom ſaid, they never heard ſuch a Sermon in their Lives, nor ever felt ſo much of the Power of God, under any Man's Preaching.

Some ſaid, when Mr. *Ingham* came firſt, he was often telling of this Mr. *Weſley*, ſaying, he believed he never talked with him but it was a Bleſſing to his Soul, and extolled him above any Man that ever they heard him talk of; and now they thought he exceeded all that Mr. *Ingham* had ſaid about him; but they were greatly ſurprized, that Mr. *Ingham* ſhould go through *Birſtal*, and not call to ſee Mr. *Weſley*.

When Mr. *Weſley* came from *Newcaſtle*, their Minds were changed; for they did not come to hear him. I aſked ſeveral of them the Reaſon; and they told me, Mr. *Ingham* ſaid he preached falſe Doctrine, and it was not ſafe to hear him.

However he did not preach in vain; for God bleſſed his Word, and his Coming was a great Bleſſing to my Soul. I ſaid to him, "Sir, you may make Uſe of *Jacob*'s Words, *The Children thou begat in Egypt before are mine*; for I freely deliver them to your Care."

After he had ſpent about a Week, he left me: But now they that ſtaid with me were confirmed in the Truth

they had received; and many were convinced of the Neceſſity of being born again, ſo that greater Multitudes than ever came to hear, and ſeveral were converted.

One Saturday Night, there came a Number of People that were halting between the *Germans* and me; and as I preached to them, my Mouth was almoſt ſtopped, and all the Time it appeared to me as if I was plowing upon a Rock; nevertheleſs, when I had done, and was got to the Fire-ſide, the People did not offer to go away, but ſtood as Beggars that wanted a Morſel of Bread. I then took up the Bible, and opened on the Prophecy of *Iſaiah*, where it ſaith, *I have blotted out thy Tranſgreſſion as a Cloud, and thy Sins as a thick Cloud: Return unto me, for I have redeemed thee.* And I ſaid, "Hear ye the Word of the Lord!" So I read thoſe Words to them as I ſtood, and began to explain them, when the Power of God came as a mighty Wind, and many cried out, "Lord, ſave or we periſh!" I fell upon my Knees, and called upon God to heal the Bones that were broken, and to ſhew Mercy to the Poor and Needy; and he heard our Cry, ſo that Seven teſtified that God for Christ's Sake had blotted out all their Sins that Night; and moſt of them told me, they purpoſed only to hear me that Time, and to have gone to the *Germans* the next Day.

Now the People from every Quarter flocked to *Birſtal* on the Sabbath, but as yet there came only Three from *Leeds*, *Mary Shent* and two other Women.

It was about *May* when Mr. *John Weſley* came to *Yorkſhire*, and toward *Michaelmas* that Mr. *Charles Weſley* and

Mr. *Charles Graves* came. They ſtaid a few Days, then went on to *Newcaſtle*, with an Intent to return in a Fortnight; but the LORD opened ſuch a Door in that Place, that Mr. *Weſley* ſtaid ſome Time longer. Mr. *Graves* came at the Time appointed, and the LORD bleſſed his coming to ſeveral Souls. I remember, one Night at *Armley* he preached, and when he had done I gave an Exhortation, and the LORD applied the Virtue of his precious Blood to nine Souls that Night, two the next Morning, and for a whole Week together there were ſome that felt the atoning Blood of JESUS CHRIST.

WHEN Mr. *Charles Weſley* came back from *Newcaſtle*, the LORD was with him in ſuch a Manner, that the Pillars of Hell ſeemed to tremble; many that were famous for ſupporting the Devil's Kingdom fell to the Ground, while he was preaching, as if they had been thunderſtruck. One Day he had preached four Times; and one that had been amongſt the People all the Day, ſaid at Night, Twenty-two had received Forgiveneſs of their Sins that Day.

I THINK, from the Time of Mr. *Charles Weſley* and Mr, *Graves*'s firſt coming, and their leaving *Yorkſhire*, after their Return from *Newcaſtle*, which was about a Month, there were added to the true Believers near Fourſcore. Then they began to cry out, "The Place is too ſtreight for us; we ſhould have a greater Houſe!" So that the Words of *Iſaiah* that I opened on, when the *Germans* bereaved me of my former Children, were fulfilled.

ABOUT this Time *William Shent* was converted; and there began to be an Uproar in *Leeds*, about his ſaying

he knew his Sins forgiven. Some, however, believed his Report, and had a Deſire to hear for themſelves;—neither could he be content to eat his Morſel alone, for his Heart panted for the Salvation of all his Neighbours.

THE *Chriſtmas* following he deſired me to go and preach at *Leeds*; but when I gave Notice of it to the Society, they adviſed me not to go till we had kept a Day of Faſting and Prayer. So we humbled ourſelves before the LORD on the Friday; and on Sunday Night I went to *Leeds*, ſeveral of the Brethren accompanying me. As we were going over the Bridge, we met two Men who ſaid to me, "If you attempt to preach in *Leeds*, you muſt not expect to come out again alive; for there is a Company of Men that ſwear they will kill you." I ſaid, "They muſt aſk my Maſter's Leave; for if he have any more Work for me to do, all the Men in the Town cannot kill me, till I have done it."

WHEN we got to Brother *Shent*'s, he had provided a large empty Houſe to preach in, and it was well filled with People. As ſoon as I got upon the Stairs I felt an awful Senſe of GOD reſt upon me, and the People behaved as People that feared GOD, and received the Word with Meekneſs.

Now *Armley* Society became as a nurſing Mother to the new-born Souls of *Leeds*; for there were ſeveral ſteady Souls at *Armley*, who had ſtood from the Beginning without Wavering, and I truſt we ſhall meet together in Heaven.

Sometime after we had begun at *Leeds*, Mr. *John Bennet*, from *Chinley* in *Derbyſhire*, came to our Town, and ſent for me to the Inn: I did not know him, but by his Dreſs I took him to be a Preacher. I ſaid, "I do not know you; pray what is your Name?" He told me. I aſked him if he came from Mr. *Weſley?* He ſaid, no; he was not in Connection with him; he was in Fellowſhip with the *Moravian Brethren*; but he had a great Opinion of Mr. *Weſley* for ſome Time, till he ſaw a little Pamphlet which Mr. *Weſley* had lately publiſhed, which he ſtiles *The Character of a Methodiſt*, and it had turned his Mind. I ſaid, "Sir, what do you find wrong there?" He replied, "There is too much Perfection in it for me." I ſaid, "Then you think, a leſs Degree of Holineſs will fit you for Heaven, than what is mentioned there; pray, what are the Words you ſtumble at?" I ſaid, "They are the Words of St. *John*, without any Addition." But he ſaid, "We know by Experience, that there is no ſuch Thing to be attained in this Life." I ſaid, "If your Experience does not anſwer to what St. *Paul* and St. *John* ſpeak, I ſhall not regard it;" and when I mentioned ſome Paſſages of Scripture, he ſaid, he did not believe that what I ſaid was Scripture. I pulled out my Bible, and ſhewed him the Words; and when he had read them, his Countenance changed, and he cavilled no more.

When we met again, we ſeemed to be of one Heart and Judgment; for God revealed his Will to him ſoon after he had parted with me, and made him an Inſtrument to turn many to Righteouſneſs, and to bring me and my Brethren to preach in *Lancaſhire*, *Cheſhire*, and *Derbyſhire*.

The first Time I went, he met me at *Marſdin*, to conduct me into *Cheſhire*; but as I went over a great Common a little behind *Huddersfield*, a Dog leaped out of the Heath, and came and ſmelled at my Leg, and walked by my Side for near a Mile; he then went to the Houſes that were a little out of the Way, and bit ſeveral Dogs, and came running after me again, ſo walked by my Side till he ſaw another Houſe, where he fought with a Dog, then followed me again; thus he went on for about five Miles, and went with me into the Inn at *Marſdin*, when he ſat down by my Side. There were ſeveral Men in the Houſe, whom I aſked, if any of them knew whoſe Dog he was, but none of them could tell. I ſaid, "I think he is mad:" But they laughed me to ſcorn. Soon after another Dog came in, and he went and bit him directly, and ran out and bit four more, when the Men purſued and killed him. When I ſaw, that God had kept me in ſuch immediate Danger, I was greatly humbled before him.

As Mr. *Bennet* and I went over *Stanedge*, we met *David Taylor*, who had got ſo much into the *poor Sinnerſhip*, that he would ſcarce ſpeak to me: He called Mr. *Bennet* to a Diſtance, and ſaid he was ſorry that he was going to take me into *Derbyſhire*; for I was ſo full of the Law and Reaſon, that I ſhould do a great deal of Hurt wherever I preached.

I preached twice that Afternoon, once at *Hopkin-Pit* in *Lancaſhire*, and the other Time at *Woodley* in *Cheſhire*. It was given out unknown to me, for me to preach at *Mancheſter-Croſs* on the Sunday in the Afternoon. About ten People went with me from Mr. *Lockwood*'s to *Man-*

cheſter: When we arrived there, I do not know, but there might be two Thouſand People gather'd together at the Croſs; and moſt of them behaved well; but when I was in the Middle of my Diſcourſe, one at the Out-ſide of the Congregation threw a Stone which cut me on the Head: However, that made the People give greater Attention, eſpecially when they ſaw the Blood run down my Face; ſo that all was quiet 'till I had done, and was ſinging a Hymn: Then the Conſtable and his Deputy came and ſeized me, and Mr. *Bennet*, and ſaid, we muſt go before the Juſtice. I replied, "By what Order." He held up his Staff, ſaying, that was his Warrant, and he would make me go. I anſwered, "I will not reſiſt; for if I have done any Thing contrary to the Law, I ought to ſuffer by the Law." He ſaid, I ſhould ſuffer for what I had done; then he began to ſtrike the People, that crowded about us. As ſoon as he and his Deputy could get thro' the Multitude, they out-ran us; when I called and ſaid, "Stay, Gentlemen, for we cannot get through the People as faſt as you." But the People crouded about us in ſuch a Manner, that we ſaw the Conſtable no more. Afterwards we rode to *Jonathan Holmes*'s. That Night we had a bleſſed Meeting; and the LORD was much with us, all the Time I ſtay'd in thoſe Parts.

SOON after Mr. *John Weſley* came into *Yorkſhire* again; and the LORD bleſſed his coming to many Souls. When he ſat out for *Newcaſtle*, he deſired me to go to *Grimſby* in *Lincolnſhire*, and to ſpend a few Days there, among ſome People that had once run well, but were turned out of the Way, by one that had come down from *London*,

who had got into the *poor Sinnerſhip*, and was made free from the righteous Law of GOD, and from all Ordinances and good Works. He brought many of them into his own Liberty, ſo that they ſold their Prayer Books, left off Reading and Praying, and followed the Motions of their own Minds, which they called *the Lamb in their Hearts*: But one or two remained under the Law as they call it, that is, they ſtill continued to read the Bible, and durſt not leave off Prayer, nor any other Ordinance that CHRIST had appointed. Theſe came to *Epworth* to ſeek the pure Goſpel; and when they heard Mr. *Weſley*, they ſaid his Word was as ſweet Wine to a thirſty Soul.

I SET out with a great Senſe of my own Weakneſs, and was ready to turn back: Then I opened my Bible, where theſe Words were written, *I was afraid, and went and hid my Talent in the Ground.* I cried out, "LORD, give me Strength and Underſtanding for the Work, if thou haſt called me to it." I opened my Book again, on the 14th Chapter of *Iſaiah* and the 1ſt Verſe, *For the LORD will have Mercy on Jacob, and will yet chooſe Iſrael, and ſet them in their own Land, and the Strangers ſhall be joined with them.* That Night I got to *Epworth*, and preached to a large Congregation.

THE next Morning, I and a Man that belonged to *Grimſby*, and a Boy about twelve Years of Age, ſet out on Foot for *Grimſby*, but Night came upon us when we were five Miles ſhort of it, and there being no Public-Houſe near there, we went to ſeveral Farm-houſes to aſk for Lodging, but could get none. Then we went to a poor Houſe, where I prevailed with the People to

let the Boy lie with two of their own Boys; and I ſaid to the Man, "Let us go and ſeek a Bed ſomewhere elſe, or a Stable to lie in." As we went on in the dark, we ſaw a Light at a ſmall Diſtance, and we went over a Field to it. I knocked at the Door, and they bid us come in: There were four Men, three Women and two Boys ſitting by the Fire. As ſoon as I entered, I ſaid, "Peace be to this Houſe;" at which Words the People ſtarted up as if I had thrown Fire at them: I ſaid, "We are two way-faring Men, and if you will entertain us for a Night, we will ſatisfy you. They got us a good Supper, and made up a good Bed. I talked to them about the Way of Salvation, and went to Prayer with them, and they were ſo taken, that the Maſter and the Miſtreſs talked to me two Hours after we were in Bed. The next Morning after Breakfaſt, I went to pay the Woman; but ſhe ſaid, her Huſband charged her to take nothing, but on the contrary, to give us ſome Money to ſupport us on the Road; but I ſaid, "Not one Farthing will we have, and if you will not take our Money, I pray GOD reward you with everlaſting Conſolation."

WE then went where we had left the Boy, and paid the People for him, and ſet out for *Grimſby*, which we reached by Ten o'Clock. The People ſoon heard that I was come, and flocked to me directly, when I prayed with them, and began to exhort, but many of them deſpiſed my Words, ſaying, I was too legal for them. I then took up my Bible and ſaid, "Hear ye the Word of the LORD!" So I read two or three Verſes, and bid them try themſelves by that Standard; then I read in another Place, and ſaid, "If you will compare your

Conſciences with theſe Scriptures, you may ſee what State your Souls are in." One Woman turned pale and began to tremble, ſaying, "I clearly ſee we are deluded, and that what we called the *Lamb in our Hearts* is nothing but the Devil." Then ſhe cried out, "Alas! alas! what muſt we do?" We went to Prayer again, and GOD made the Kingdom of *Satan* to ſhake once more in that Place.

THE ſecond Night, a Schoolmaſter ſent me Word, that he would give me Leave to preach in his School, which would hold ſeveral Hundreds of People: But thoſe that had fallen into the *poor Sinnerſhip* told me, if I did they durſt not go to hear me, for they ſhould be mobbed, and I ſhould be killed. I ſaid, "As the Gentleman has made me the Offer, I will accept it, and by the Grace of GOD will preach, if there were as many Devils in it, as there are Tiles on it." Accordingly I went, and it was well filled from Side to Side, and the People behaved well: I found great Liberty in ſpeaking, and when I had done, ſeveral cried out, "This is the Way of Salvation."

WHEN I came back to Brother *Blow*'s in Peace, thoſe that had been ſhorn of their Strength, confeſſed their Fearfulneſs, and ſaid, "While we continued in the Spirit in which we were converted, we were as bold as Lions; oh, what ſhall we do to recover our Strength?" I told them to humble themſelves before the LORD with Prayer and Faſting, and He would ſnatch them out of the Snare of the Devil, and give them back their firſt Love.

I PREACHED again the next Morning, and ſet out for *Epworth*: in my Way I ſtopt at *Ferry*, where I preached at Four in the Afternoon, and got into *Epworth* by Seven that Evening.

WHEN I came there, ſuch a large Company was gathered together, that I could not get into the Houſe, nor yet one third of the People, tho' it was dark and ſnow'd: However, I deſired them to hand me out a Chair; ſo I ſtood up in the Snow, and preached, and they behaved as well as ever I knew a Congregation in my Life; and it appeared that GOD bleſſed his Word to many Souls that Night.

WHEN I went home, I found GOD had opened the Mouth of *Jonathan Reeves*, and bleſſed his Word to Numbers about *Birſtal*: and we laboured together for ſome Time, till I returned again into Mr. *Bennet*'s Round.

I WENT into the *Peak* to preach at *Mony-aſh*, when a Clergyman, with a great Company of Men that work'd in the Lead-Groves, all being in Liquor, came in juſt as I began to give out the Hymn: As ſoon as we began to ſing, he began to halloo and ſhout, as if he was hunting with a Pack of Hounds, and ſo continued all the Time we ſang. When I began to pray, he attempted to overturn the Chair that I ſtood on, but he could not, altho' he ſtruck ſo violently with his Foot, that he broke one of the Arms of the Chair quite off. When I began to preach, he called on his Companions to pull me down; but they replied, "No, Sir, the Man ſays nothing but the Truth; pray, Sir, hold your Peace, and let us hear

what he has to ſay?" He then came himſelf, took me by the Collar of my Shirt, and pulled me down; then he tore down my Coat Cuffs, and attempted to tear it down the Back, then took me by the Collar, and ſhook me. I ſaid, "Sir, you and I muſt ſhortly appear at the Bar of GOD to give an Account of this Night's Work." He replied, "What! muſt you and I appear before GOD's Bar together?" I ſaid, "As ſure as we look one another in the Face now." He let go my Throat, took my Bible out of my Hand, and turning it over and over, ſaid, "It is a right Bible; and if you preach by the Spirit of GOD, let me hear you preach from this Text;" which was, *Wiſdom ſtrengtheneth the Wiſe, more than ten mighty Men in the City:* Then I got up and began to ſpeak from his Text, and if any offered to make a Noiſe, the Grovers ſaid, "Hold your Peace, or we will make you, and let us hear what he will make of the Parſon's Text." As I went on, the Parſon ſaid, "That is right, that is true:" After a while he looked round and ſaw many in Tears; then he looked at me, and went away, leaving me to finiſh my Diſcourſe in Peace. All the reſt of the Round, I had peaceable Meetings; and the LORD kept ſtill adding to the Number of his Children.

AT my Return, I began to preach in the open Street at Brother *Shent*'s Door in *Leeds*, and great Companies flocked to hear me. The firſt Time I ſtood up in the Street, I was ſtruck on the Head with an Egg and two Potatoes, but that neither hindered me from ſpeaking, nor them from hearing. I heard that ſeveral ſerious People, as ſoon as I had done, went to an old Clergyman, to aſk his Advice about the Doctrine I had preached,

and told him as much of the Sermon as they could: He ſaid, he hoped no one had diſturbed me for preaching that Doctrine; they told him ſome had thrown Potatoes at me, and ſpoiled my Wig and Coat with a rotten Egg: He ſaid, he would rather looſe his Arm than throw at any Man for preaching ſuch Doctrine; for that was the Marrow of the Goſpel. Many loſt their Prejudice by his Word, and embraced the Truth with Joy; ſo that I preached in the Street in *Leeds* every other Sunday Morning, with very little Diſturbance.

After ſome Time I went into *Lincolnſhire* again; and the Congregations were ſo large at *Grimſby*, that I was obliged to ſtand upon a Table at Brother *Blow*'s Back-door for ſeveral Days together. As I was preaching, the Miniſter and three Men came to play at Quoits, as near the People as they could get; but with all their playing and ſhouting, they could not draw any one from hearing.

Some Friends from *Tetney* and *Cleathorps* got me to go to a Shepherd's Houſe near the Sea-Coaſt. There was a large Company gathered together in that Deſert, and I opened my Book on the 1ſt of *Galatians* and the 3d Verſe, *Grace be unto you, and Peace from GOD the Father, and from our LORD JESUS CHRIST, who gave himſelf for our Sins, that he might deliver us from this preſent evil World, according to the Will of GOD and our Father.* I felt much of the Lord's Preſence, and the Power of God was ſo great among us, that the People fell down flat on their Faces, or kneel'd down on their Knees, ſo that there was not one left ſtanding, and their Cry was ſo great, that my Voice could not be heard; then I fell on my Knees, and called

upon the LORD to heal the Bones that were broken, and I believe many will praiſe GOD for that Meeting to all Eternity.

IN my Return to *Epworth*, I was deſired to go by *Hainton*, and ſeveral from *Grimſby* went with me. When we got there, *William Fenwick* told me, there were a Company of Men at the Bowling-Green, who had made themſelves almoſt drunk on purpoſe to kill me: I told him, that GOD was my Defence, and I believed he would deliver me from them all. As ſoon as they heard I was come, they all left the Bowls, and came to *William Fenwick's*, many of them with Sticks about two Feet long and as thick as a Man's Wriſt: Some of them began to ſing a Pſalm, and others to curſe and ſwear; but I reproved them, and they had no Power to meddle with me. At the appointed Hour I went into the Street, and ſpoke to them in the Name of the LORD; and GOD put a Bridle in the Jaws of the Wicked, ſo that they ſtood patiently to hear, while I was reaſoning with them about the Neceſſity of being made holy here, that we may not be damned eternally. A luſty red-faced Gentlewoman exclaimed aloud, "I am a Papiſt, and believe I ſhall be cleanſed in Purgatory. When I had done, I ſaid, "I appeal to all your Conſciences, that I have not ſpoken my own Words, but the Words of the LORD." A Gentleman anſwered, we allow all you ſay is true; yet you deſerve to be ſet in the Stocks for delivering it in the Street.

AS I went into the Houſe, one hit me with an Egg on my Head, and the People crouded ſo faſt into the Houſe that I could ſcarce turn me; at laſt I got to ſit upon a

Dreſſer, and ſpoke to them for an Hour, and GOD began to work on ſeveral of them; but as ſoon as they began to tremble and cry out, "LORD ſave or we periſh," others made all the Haſte they could to get out of the Houſe.

WHEN I got to *Epworth*, I found the People much in Earneſt at that Time, and my own Soul greatly bleſſed in ſpeaking to them.

AFTER I had laboured in *Yorkſhire* a while longer, Mr. *John Weſley* ſent for me to *London*: But by this Time I had almoſt worn out my Cloaths, and did not know where the next ſhould come from: My Wife ſaid I was not fit to go any where as I was; and I ſaid, "I have worn them out in the LORD's Work, and he will not let me want long. Two Days after, after a Tradeſman in our Pariſh, that did not belong to our Society came to my Houſe, and brought me a Piece of blue Cloth for a Coat, and a Piece of black Cloth for a Waiſtcoat and Breeches; ſo I ſee the LORD is mindful of them that truſt in him.

As ſoon as I well could, I ſet out for *London* on Foot, but one of my Neighbours was going, and he took my Pace, and let me ride ſome Times. I preached at *Nottingham Croſs* as I went.

I ſtaid a few Days at *London*, then Mr. *Richards* and I ſet out for *Oxford*. We both preached at *High Wycombe* as we went.

WHEN we came to *Oxford*, we met three young Gentlemen in their Gowns in the Street, but I think I never

heard a Soldier or Sailor ſwear worſe than they did. Mr. *Richards* being firſt and a Collegian himſelf ſaid, "Gentlemen, I am aſhamed to hear you: It is a ſad Thing, that you ſhould come here to learn to be Guides to others in the Way to Heaven, and continue to go in the Way to Deſtruction yourſelves!" One of them ſaid, with a Curſe, "What are you a *Preſbyterian?*" When I ſpoke, another of them ſaid, "Theſe Chaps belong to poor *Weſley*;" So they went away.

We ſpent a Sabbath at *Oxford*; and ſome of the Collegians behaved very rudely as I was preaching in the Evening, but the Lord put his Hook in their Jaws, and kept them from doing any Harm to the People, or hindering me in my Diſcourſe.

The next Day we got to *Cirenceſter*, and ſtaid two Nights there; and one of the Brethren went with us to *Briſtol*.

All this Journey, we had but one Horſe between Mr. *Richards* and me.

After I had ſtaid a few Days at *Briſtol*, and had once preached at *Bath*, Mr. *Weſley*, Mr. *Downs* and I ſet out for *Cornwall*. Mr. *Downs* and I had but one Horſe, ſo we rode by Turns. Mr. *Weſley* preached at *Taunton Croſs* and *Exeter Caſtle* as we went. We generally ſet out before Mr. *Weſley* and Mr. *Shepherd*.

One Day we had travelled near 20 Miles and had not baited, when we came to a Village and enquired for an Inn; but the People told us there was none in the

Town, nor any on our Road within twelve *Corniſh* Miles: Then I ſaid, "Come, Brother *Downs*, we muſt live by Faith." When we had ſtood a while, I ſaid, "Let us go to yonder Houſe, where the Stone Porch is, and aſk for ſomething;" ſo we did, and the Woman ſaid, "We have Bread, Butter, and Milk, and good Hay for your Horſe." When we had refreſhed ourſelves, I gave the Woman a Shilling; but ſhe ſaid ſhe did not deſire any Thing; I ſaid, "I inſiſt upon it."

We got to *Bodmin* that Night; but it was late before Mr. *Weſley* and Mr. *Shepherd* arrived, having loſt the Path in the Twelve-mile Common, and found the Way again by the Sound of the Bells. The next Day we got to *Gwenap*, and the Day after to St. *Ives*. The following Day I work'd at my own Buſineſs, and continued to work for ſeveral Days.

When I had done my Job of Work, I went to St. *Juſts*, and preached at the Croſs to a large Company of well-behaved People; then I went to the *Land's-End*, and preached the ſame Evening; the next Morning, which was Sunday, I came to *Morva* Church: After Service I preached there, and in the Evening at *Zunnor*.

When I had been out a Week, I returned to St. *Ives*, and found Brother *Downs* in a Fever, ſo that he was not able to preach at all. All that Time Mr. *Weſley* and I lay on the Floor; he had my great Coat for his Pillow, and I had *Burkitt*'s Notes on the New Teſtament for my Bolſter.

After being here near three Weeks, one Morning about Three o'Clock, Mr. *Weſley* turned over, and finding me awake, clapp'd me on the Side, ſaying, "Brother *Nelſon*, let us be of good Cheer; I have one whole Side yet, for the Skin is off but one Side."

We uſually preached on the Commons, going from one Common to another, and it was but ſeldom any one aſked us to eat or drink.

One Day we had been at St. *Hillary-Downs*, and Mr. *Weſley* had preached from *Ezekiel*'s Viſion of dry Bones, and there was a Shaking among the People, as he preached; and as we returned Mr. *Weſley* ſtopped his Horſe to pick the Blackberries, ſaying, "Brother *Nelſon*, we ought to be thankful that there is Plenty of Blackberries; for this is the beſt Country that ever I ſaw for getting a Stomach, but the worſt that ever I ſaw for getting Food: Do the People think we can live by Preaching?" I ſaid, "I know not what they may think; but one aſked me to eat ſomething as I came from St. *Juſt*, when I ate heartily of Barley Bread and Honey." He ſaid, "You was well off; I had a Thought of begging a Cruſt of Bread of the Woman where I met the People at *Morva*, but forgot it till I had got ſome Diſtance from the Houſe."

One Sunday, having been at the *Land's-End* in the Morning, and at *Morva* at Noon, I came to *Zunnor*, to preach at Night, and got there before the Afternoon Service began. In the Sermon the Miniſter ſaid, "Here is a People that hold that damnable *Popiſh* Doctrine of *Juſtification by Faith*; therefore I beg you not to hear

them." After the Service was over, I went about 200 Yards from the Church, and got upon a Rock of Stone, where I began to ſing a Hymn, and I believe the whole Congregation came to hear me: According to the Light I had, I ſhewed them what was the Faith of the *Goſpel*, and what the Faith of the *Church of Rome*.

I STAID a Fortnight after Mr. *Weſley* was gone, and I found my Soul much bleſſed among the People.

WHEN Mr. *Weſley* arrived at *Briſtol*, he wrote me a Letter, wherein he deſired me to call at three different Places to preach, in my Way to *Briſtol*.

WHEN I left Capt. *Hitchens*'s, I was benighted on the Twelve-mile Common, and was wet to the Skin; but by the Providence of GOD I came to the Houſe, where I had called in going down. I knocked at the Door, and the Woman knew my Voice, and ſaid, "The LORD bleſs you, come in. As ſoon as I went into the Houſe, they pulled off my wet Cloaths and put me on dry ones, and got me ſomething warm for Supper; they took my wet Cloaths out of my Bags, which they rinſed, dried, and ironed: We ſang an Hymn, went to Prayer, and I gave them an Exhortation that Night. The next Morning, the Man roſe up, and alarmed that and another Village, ſo that by Seven o'Clock I had about 300 to preach to, who all ſeemed to receive the Word with Joy. I heard ſoon afterwards, that the Man and his Wife, who received us, had received the LORD that ſent us.

THE next Night I came to *Sticklepath*, and preached to a large Congregation in a Field. As I was ſpeaking,

a Woman, who had been brought up a *Quaker*, began to tremble, and in a little Time ſunk down upon the Graſs, and laid till I had done; then they brought her to Mrs. *Bidgood*'s where I was, and I prayed with her; altho' moſt of the Company were *Quakers*, yet they deſired me to ſing and read ſeveral of our Hymns.

The next Morning, before I began to preach, the Woman that fell down, with two more, came into the Room where I was, and ſhe ſaid, "I had no Reſt in the Night, the Anguiſh of my Soul was ſo great, and I deſire thee to pray with me:" We went to Prayer, and when we roſe up, ſhe ſaid, "O praiſe the Lord, for To-day is the Day of *Pentecoſt* with me."

After I had done preaching, an Exciſeman, who came from *Crockern-wells*, told me that it was given out for me to preach there at Ten o'Clock that Forenoon, and he was to conduct me. So we ſet out directly, and I preached in an Orchard. Among the reſt of the People was a Clergyman and his Wife. All behaved well.

Almoſt as ſoon as I alighted at the *Oxford-Inn* in *Exeter*, a Man came to conduct me to the Place where I was to preach: There was a Clergyman in the next Room, who ſoon came into the Room where I was, and aſked me how the two Mr. *Weſleys* did; and inſiſted upon my ſupping with him: I told him I muſt go to preach firſt; he ſaid he would go with me, and ſo he did. As I was preaching, the Clerk of a Pariſh fell down, and after him another Man and Woman; they did not cry out, but lay groaning for Mercy. After I had done, and the greater Part of the People were gone, I went to Prayer with thoſe that were in Diſtreſs.

As we went back to the Inn, the Clergyman ſaid, "I dare not pray as you did To-night; you prayed that God would give you ſome Fruit in that Place, as he had done in others; I have been a Preacher for many Years, and I cannot ſay that I have had any Fruit, that any one has been converted by my Preaching in all my Life." I replied, "If you be not converted yourſelf, and have not a greater Commiſſion than Man can give you, you may preach all your Days, and never convert one Soul."

When we were at Supper, he aſked me how Mr. *Weſley* went on: And when he heard, how we lived, and how we were treated by wicked Men, he ſaid, "If that be the Way to Heaven, I think I ſhall never get there; my Fleſh is not Braſs, nor my Bones Iron." I replied, "You do not know what you can bear, till you come to be tried." He ſaid, "Well, I believe Mr. *W*----- is the greateſt Man in this Kingdom, but I think he uſes too much Auſterity." We talked till Eleven o'Clock, then parted in Love. I ſaw him no more, but have heard ſince that he receives Mr. *Weſley* to preach in his Church, and that God hath made him an Inſtrument of converting Sinners.

I preached the next Morning, and then ſet out for *Axminſter*, where I preached in the open Street at Three in the Afternoon, to a well-behaved People, tho' it was the ſecond Day of their Fair.

The next Day I went to *Thorngrove*, near *Middleſey*. That Night God bleſſed his Word to ſeveral, as appeared afterwards: One Gentlewoman was convinced that

Night, who four Years after ſent my Wife four Guineas, which came in good Time, for ſhe had borrowed four Guineas of a Neighbour to buy a Cow, and the Time for Payment was come, and ſhe had not Money to pay.

When I got to *Briſtol*, I found my Soul much bleſſed among the People, and in thoſe ten Days there were ſeveral that found the Lord.

In my Return home, I preached at *Stroud*, and ſeveral other Places, in my Way to *Wedneſbury*, whither I came, not long after the People had been mobbed in ſuch a cruel Manner. I preached in an open Yard to very large Congregations of People, ſeveral Times; ſome of the Mobbers came to hear me, but all behaved well; ſo He, who ſtops the Raging of the Sea, can ſtay the Madneſs of the People.

After ſpending a few Days there, I ſet out for *Nottingham*, and ſtaid there two Days: I preached at the *Malt-Croſs* on the Sabbath, to a large Congregation, in great Peace; but the Monday being a rejoicing Day, they had Bonfires in the Market-place, and ſome came with Squibs to diſturb me as I was preaching. One of them threw a Squib on Fire cloſe to my Heels, but a Woman kicked it away; the Man caught it up again to throw at me, but it burſt in his Hand, and he went away ſhaking his Head. Another came on the low Side of the Croſs, with a Deſign to throw one in my Face, but as he aimed it at mine, the Wind blew it back and it went off in his own. The third came on the Windſide of me, with an Intent to throw one in my Face; but I did not turn my Face that Way as ſoon as he ex-

pected, ſo that it burſt in his own Hand. As ſoon as I had done, a Serjeant of the Army came to me with Tears in his Eyes, and ſaid, "In the Preſence of God and all this People, I beg your Pardon; for I came on Purpoſe to mob you, but when I could get none to aſſiſt me, I ſtood to hear you, and am convinced of the deplorable State my Soul is in, and I believe you are a Servant of the living God;" he then kiſſed me, and went away weeping.

When I got home, I found my Wife much better, tho' never likely to recover her former Strength, owing to the Perſecution ſhe met with at *Wakefield*, when Mr. *Larwood* was mobbed there. After they had abuſed him, ſhe with ſome more Women ſet out for *Birſtal*, and a Mob followed them into the Fields; when they overtook them, ſhe turned about and ſpake to them, upon which all the Men returned without touching them; but the Women followed them till they came to a Gate, where they ſtopt them; they damned her, ſaying, "You are *Nelſon*'s Wife, and here you ſhall die." They ſaw ſhe was big with Child, yet beat her on the Body ſo cruelly, that they killed the Child in her Womb, and ſhe went home and miſcarried directly; this Treatment ſhe has Reaſon to remember to her Life's End; but God more than made it up to her, by filling her Heart with Peace and Love.

There had been ſome Diſturbance at *Leeds*, and I was the firſt that ſtood up after at Brother *Shent*'s Door. A Number of Men had proteſted to pull down the firſt Man that attempted to preach there; but if the Fear of God could not reſtrain them, the Fear of the Magiſtrates

did, ſo that they did not meddle with me; only ſome Boys threw about a Peck of Turnips at me, but not one of them hit me. That was a bleſſed Morning to many Souls: Two, that had been Enemies, were ſtruck to the Ground, and cried out for the Diſquietude of their Souls. I preached often afterwards with little Diſturbance, and Believers were multiplied in *Leeds*.

After I had ſtaid a few Months in *Yorkſhire*, I went a third Time into *Lincolnſhire*. As I went through *Epworth*, we had peaceable and bleſſed Meetings; but when I came to *Grimſby*, the Miniſter got a Man to beat the Town Drum through the Town, and went before the Drum, and gathered all the Rabble he could, giving them Liquor to go with him, to fight for the Church. When they came to Br. *Blow*'s Door, they ſet up three Huzzas, and the Parſon cried out, "Pull down the Houſe, pull down the Houſe!" but no Man offered to touch the Houſe 'till I had done Preaching and Praying: Then they broke the Windows, till they had not left one whole Square about the Houſe; and as the People went out, they abuſed them, 'till ſome of the Mobbers began to fight their Fellows for abuſing the Women, ſo that moſt of the People got away while they were fighting one with another. Not long after, the Miniſter gathered them together again, and gave them more Drink; then they came and broke the Stanchions of the Windows, and pulled up the Paving in the Street, which they threw in at the Windows, and broke the Houſhold Goods in Pieces, the Parſon crying out, "If they will not turn out the Villain, that we may put him in the Black-Ditch, pull down the Houſe."

While they were drumming, curſing and ſwearing, fighting, and breaking the Goods, one of the Neighbours, that was not a Hearer, went to an Alderman, and ſaid, "Some Order muſt be taken with theſe Men, for if they be ſuffered to go on as they do, they will ruin *William Blow*, and I fear they will kill ſome Body." But the good Alderman ſaid he would do nothing, but lend them his Maſh-Tub to pump the Preacher in. Then the Mob fell out again one with another, and diſperſed, when they had laboured from Seven till almoſt Twelve at Night. The Parſon ſaid to the Drummer, "I will reward you for your Pains, but be ſure to come at Five in the Morning, for the Villain will be preaching again then." So the Drummer did, and began to beat, juſt as I was going to give out the Hymn. When he had beat for near three Quarters of an Hour, and ſaw it did not diſturb us, he laid down his Drum, and ſtood to hear for himſelf, and the Tears preſently ran down his Cheeks. When I had ended, he expreſſed great Sorrow for what he had done to diſturb us. As he and ſome others went up the Town, the Parſon met them, and bade him be ſure to come at 7 o'Clock. He ſaid, "No Sir; I will never beat the Drum to diſturb yond People any more, while Breath is in my Body." So that we had great Peace in our ſhattered Houſe that Night, and God's Preſence amongſt us.

The next Day I went to *Hainton*; and when I had done preaching, a grave elderly Gentleman came to me, and ſaid, "Your Doctrine is ſound, but it would far better become a Church." I ſaid, "Sir, if a Man was hungry in the Midſt of a Deſart, and wholeſome Food was brought to him, he would not refuſe to eat it, be-

cauſe he was not in the Dining-Room." He replied, "You are right, you are right; I thank you kindly, and wiſh you well, and that much Good may be done by you whereſoever you preach, for good Food is good, wherever it is eaten."

When I got to *Epworth*, I was told, the Clerk was drunk, and had been ſwearing he would pull down the Preacher, and take him to ſuch an Alehouſe, where the Curate and ſome other Men were drinking. In the Evening, as I was preaching, he came ſtaggering, and ruſhed in among the People, crying, "Stand out of my Way; for I muſt have the Preacher: He muſt go before my Maſter, that is, in ſuch an Alehouſe." One aſked him where his Warrant was? he ſaid he had none, but his Maſter had ſent him, and he would make me go with him. The People bid him hold his Peace, or get about his Buſineſs: And when he began to be rude, one took him up in his Arms, and laid him down upon a Dunghill, there left him.

After I got home, it was much impreſſed upon me, that ſome Trial was coming upon me; and ſeveral Times when I was preaching, I have ſaid, "There is a Cloud gathering, and it will burſt over my Head: O pray for me."

After this I ſtaid ſome Time in *Yorkſhire*, and Sinners were daily turning from their evil Ways; ſo that ſeveral Alehouſe Keepers curſed me to my Face, and told me, I ought to be tranſported, for I preached ſo much Hell and Damnation, that I terrified the People ſo, that they durſt not drink Six-pence with a Neighbour.

Some Time after, I met a Gentleman as I was riding to *Leeds*, who ſaid ſomething about the Weather. I ſaid, "The Lord orders all Things well." He preſently ſaid, "I know you; for I have heard you preach, but I do not like you: You lay a wrong Foundation for Salvation: Do you think that the Blood of another Man will ſave me?" I ſaid, "St. *Paul* ſaith, *other Foundation can no Man lay* but Christ Jesus; but you ſay, that is a wrong Foundation: Upon what Terms do you expect to be ſaved?" He ſaid, "By good Works." I replied, "You will be the firſt that ever got to Heaven that Way: But, ſuppoſe you could, "What would you do when you come there?" He ſaid, "What do others do there?" I anſwered, "They ſing *Glory to God that ſitteth on the Throne, and to the Lamb for ever, that was ſlain, and hath redeemed us by his Blood*; but your Song will be, *Glory be to myſelf: for I have quickened my own Soul, and qualified myſelf for Heaven.* O Sir, what a ſcandalous Song will you have to ſing? It will make Diſcord in Heaven." He turned pale, and ſaid nothing for ſome Time. When we had rid a while, he ſaid, "All the Lord requires of us is, *To do Juſtice, and to love Mercy, and walk humbly with God.*" I ſaid, "Do you expect to ſtand or fall by that Scripture?" He ſaid, "I do:" Then I replied, "You are loſt for ever, if you are to go to Heaven for doing juſtly, loving Mercy, and walking humbly with God: I appeal to your Conſcience, if you have not come ſhort in every one of theſe Duties: Have you dealt with every Man, as you would have him do to you, in all Circumſtances ever ſince you knew Good from Evil?" Suppoſe you had, have you dealt juſtly with God, and employed every Talent that he has committed to your Charge,

to his Glory, both Time, Wiſdom, and Learning, your Houſe, your Land, Health, and lawful Trade? If you have us'd any one Talent, and not to the Glory of God, you have robbed him." Then I ſpoke of the other two. He ſaid, "There is Repentance:" But I replied, "Not for you; for you are to be ſaved for doing juſtly, for loving Mercy, and walking humbly with God: If you come ſhort of theſe Duties, you muſt be damned." He ſaid, "Lord have Mercy on me! You are enough to make any Man deſpair." "Yes, I ſaid, of ſaving himſelf, that he may come to *Jeſus Chriſt*, and be ſaved." He argued no more; but heard me patiently, and parted friendly.

One Sunday I was at a Chapel, where the Miniſter laboured much to perſwade the People that there was no ſuch Thing as the Forgiveneſs of Sins in this World; when he had done, he ſent the Clerk to deſire me to call upon him, I did ſo, and he told me, he underſtood I was he that went about to delude the People, telling them they might know their Sins forgiven in this World, and there is no ſuch Thing; he ſaid, he did not know his own Sins were forgiven, and he had talked with ſeveral learned Divines, and there was not one of them that did; and ſeveral believed they muſt never know it, till the Day of Judgment. I ſaid, "Sir, What will become of their Souls till then? will they lie in Heaven or Hell?" He ſaid it was an unfair Queſtion. I ſaid, "Sir, If what you ſay be true, every Time we uſe the Church Prayers, we offer the Sacrifice of Fools, and mock God to his Face: For this Day you, and all the Congregation in my Preſence, prayed that God would forgive you all your Sins, Negligences, and

Ignorances: And you affirmed, in the Preſence of God, that he pardoneth and abſolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe the Goſpel; if he do not, you are a falſe Witneſs and a Deceiver of the People; yea, and a Condemner of the Word of God: For St. *Peter* ſaith, *To Him give all the Prophets Witneſs, that whoſoever believeth in Him, ſhould receive Forgiveneſs of their Sins.* And St. *Paul* ſaith, *By Him all that believe are juſtified from all Things.* He doth not ſay, they ſhall be juſtified at the Day of Judgment, but all that believe are juſtified. And St. *John* ſaith, *I write unto you little Children; becauſe your Sins are forgiven for his Name's Sake.*" And he ſaid, You take ſome Part of Scripture. I ſaid, "I leave all the reſt to you to contradict me if you can. For this Day you have denied the Faith of the Church you call yourſelf a Miniſter of; as ſhe ſaith, before the Grace of Christ, and the Inſpiration of his holy Spirit, no good Work can be done. But you ſay, there is no ſuch Thing as Inſpiration to be expected in this Age. And yet, you prayed that God would cleanſe the Thoughts of your Hearts by the Inſpiration of his holy Spirit." Then he ſaid I had too good a Memory for him: Landlady, bring us a Pint of Ale; ſo I left him.

One Man in our Town, that had run well for a Seaſon, but had turned from us, and was become a *happy Sinner*, now invited the *Germans* to preach at his Houſe. One of their chief Preachers came, and ſaid, (after preaching) they had been aſking their Saviour about preaching in *Birſtal*; and the Lamb had made it plain to them, the Time was come, that they ſhould have a Church in *Birſtal*; which one came and told me. I ſaid,

"God hath ſhew'd me to the Contrary, and you may go and tell the Preacher, that Lamb that told them ſo is a Liar." They came ſeveral Weeks together; but to no Purpoſe. Then the Preacher ſaid, It was not the Lamb's Will that they ſhould come any more. When they told me, I ſaid, "Their Lamb is much given to change: He hath not continued in one Mind for three Months."

After this I was going to *Stentcliff* to work at my Buſineſs, about Five in the Morning; and I met with a Diſſenting Miniſter; he ſtopped me, and ſaid, "*John*, you often go this Way; I would have you come and ſpend an Hour with us, for I want to talk with you;" I ſaid, "I have not an Hour to ſpare, for I go to my Work at Five in the Morning, and work till Six at Night: Then I have always ſomewhere to go to preach; ſo that I have ſcarce Time to read a Chapter in the Bible, but at my Dinner-Hour; and ſome Times I have to preach in that Hour." He ſaid, "What do you mean by Redemption? Do you mean, that Christ hath died for all?" I ſaid, "I do believe he did, or he cannot judge all: For Truth itſelf cannot condemn any Man, becauſe he will not believe a Lye. "What do you mean? he ſaid;" I ſaid, "Every Man is bound to believe that he, by Nature, is a Child of Wrath; and, by wilful Sin, an Heir of Hell; and that, while he was in that loſt Condition, the Eternal Son of God, for his Sake, took upon him our Nature; and did in that Nature fulfil all Righteouſneſs for him, and at the laſt gave his Soul an Offering for his Sins: He muſt conſciouſly believe, that the Lord Jesus Christ loved him, and gave himſelf for *him*, or he muſt be damned eternally. And if the Lord did not give himſelf for

him, he must be damned, because he doth not believe a Lye. But you know it is said, he, by the Grace of God, tasted Death for every Man: And he gave himself a Ransom for all to be manifest in due Season. And St. *John* saith, *He is the Propitiation for our Sins; and not for ours only, but for the Sins of the whole World.* Sir, There are numberless Scriptures that say he did die for all; but shew me one that saith, he did not die for all." He said, "If he died for all, Why are not all saved?" I said, "Let the Lord answer for himself: He saith, *Ye will not come unto me that ye may have Life.*" So then he said, "You say it is of him that willeth." I said, "It is Christ that saith, *Ye will not come to me.* Do not pretend to be wiser than the Lord that made you. You say you will have no Ifs: But I say, If you give the Promise without the Condition, God will take your Name out of the Book of Life. Sir, I hope you will weigh these Things; and I shall be glad to converse with you some other Opportunity, for my Time is now expired."

Almost every Day some would come to dispute with me as I was at my Work. And I saw every Day more clearly, that he that insists on Men being saved by Christ from their Sins, in this World, is like a speckled Bird; for all Sects and Parties, that have not the Life of Christ in them, to mock at.

One Day, two *Quakers* fell upon me very hotly, and told me, I was carnal, or else I should not make use of carnal Ordinances, nor seek the Living among the Dead. I told them, those Ordinances they called carnal, I knew to be spiritual: For God had refreshed my Soul in the Use of them by his Spirit: "You say I seek the Liv-

ing among the Dead, but I do not: For I have found the LORD of Life in the great Congregation; but if I would leave the *Church*, where muſt I go to find a People that are truly alive to GOD." They told me if I was right I ſhould come to them; for they were the only People that had ſpiritual Worſhip amongſt them. And they talked much about *George Fox* and *William Penn*, and ſaid, "What think you of them?" I ſaid, "I think well of them; but their Graces will profit you nothing, except the ſame Change be wrought in your Hearts, as was in them: Neither do I ſee that you are GOD's People any more, than thoſe that go to Church; for the LORD hath ſet a Mark upon his Children, and it will reſt on them as long as the World endureth." They ſaid, "What is that Mark?" I replied, "They are hated of all Men that know not GOD: For they, that live after the Spirit, muſt be perſecuted by thoſe that live after the Fleſh: I do not ſee that this is your Caſe, any more than of them that go to Church: Your Fore-Fathers had that Spot of GOD's Children; but you have loſt it as much as the Church." Then one of them turned pale, and ſaid, "Do you believe that GOD hath no People in the Land but the *Methodiſts*?" I replied, "I did not ſay ſo." He ſaid, "They are the only People that are perſecuted now." They then went away ſeemingly much diſcontented.

As I was paſſing through Part of *Lancaſhire*, I found the LORD reviving his Work amongſt the People. After I had done preaching at one Place, a Man and his Wife came to me, both in Tears, and deſired me to pray with them, I did ſo. When I had done, I was exhorting them

to abſtain from all Evil, and to continue in Prayer, and told them, God would ſhew Mercy unto them, for the Obedience and Blood-Shedding of his dear Son. Preſently a *Diſſenter* broke out, and ſaid, I was deceiving the People, and ſetting them to lean on a broken Reed, by telling them that another Man's Obedience and Blood would atone for their Sins. I aſked him, how *he* could ſtand before that God that is of purer Eyes than to behold Iniquity, if there was no Merit in the Blood of Christ to atone for his Sins?" He ſaid, "Man has ſuch noble Faculties, that if he improves them, he will thereby qualify himſelf for Heaven; but you degrade Man's Nature in your Preaching, and ſet him on a Level with the Brute Beaſts." I ſaid, "Did I ſo?" He replied, "Yes, you did; for I heard you myſelf." I ſaid, "Then, Sir, you heard me preach *falſe Doctrine:* For if I ſet a natural Man upon a Level with the Beaſts, I ſet him greatly out of his Place; I believe he is far worſe; for he hath not only the Faculties of the Beaſt, which are *Luſt*, and *Earthly-mindedneſs*, but the Nature of the Devil, *Wrath*, *Pride*, *Malice*, and *Ambition*, ſo that he is three Degrees worſe than a Beaſt, 'till he is created a new in Christ Jesus: So that, if I ranked him among the Beaſts, I ſet him above his Place." Then he burſt out in Anger: But I ſaid, "Sir, make Uſe of that noble Reaſon you ſpeak of, and let me ſee you ſave yourſelf from Anger." At which he was ready to ſtrike me; and went away, leaving me, as he ſaid, in my ſtupid Condition.

When I had got about ten Miles farther in the Country, another *Diſſenter* came into a Houſe, where I was at Prayer with a poor Man. When I had done Prayer, I

exhorted him not to reſt, till he was ſure that the LORD JESUS had loved him, and waſhed him from his Sins in his own Blood: At which Words, the *Diſſenter* ſpoke out, ſaying, "I hate to hear People talk of being aſſured of any ſuch Thing, or of *Perfection* in this World." I replied, "Is the LORD of Life able to do what he came from Heaven to do?" He ſaid, "What is that?" I anſwered, "To deſtroy the Works of the Devil, to make an End of Sin, and to bring in everlaſting Righteouſneſs?" He ſaid, "Shall you make me believe, that any Man can live without committing Sin?" I ſaid, "I cannot tell whether I can make you believe it or not; but this I can tell you, by the Authority of GOD's Word, that if you are not ſaved from your Sins here, you muſt be damned." "Well, he ſaid, I care not what you ſay; for no Man can live without committing Sin one Day." I replied, "By your Talk, it is as neceſſary for a Man to commit Sin, as to eat; for you ſay he cannot live without it: Now doth it keep his Body or Soul alive? Or do you, Sir, believe, That all Mankind are to live in Sin, and die without perfecting Holineſs in the Fear of God, and ſo be damned without Hope or Help?" He ſaid, "No: GOD forbid." Then, I ſaid, "You muſt believe there is a *Purgatory*, to cleanſe the Soul in after Death: Sir, You and the Devil ſpeak one Language; for he ſaid to our Mother *Eve*, *Did God ſay, In the Day that ye eat thereof ye ſhall die?* Ye ſhall not die. God ſaith, *The Soul that ſinneth, it ſhall die:* But you, The Souls of all muſt continue in Sin, and yet they ſhall not die!" He ſaid, "You ſhock me: If Things be as you ſay, What will become of the greateſt Part of Mankind?" I replied, "Our LORD's Word is, *What is that to thee, follow thou*

me." He ſaid, "I cannot but ſay you have the Scripture on your Side: But if you are right, we are ſadly wrong. I never did hear one of you in my Life: For our Miniſter hath warned us not to hear you; but I am determined to hear you this Night;" ſo he did, and thanked me kindly when I had done.

At my Return home, I was told, That they were going to preſs Men for his Majeſty's Service; and that ſeveral of the Alehouſe-Keepers and Clergymen had agreed to preſs me for one: And I was adviſed not to preach for a Seaſon by ſeveral of my Neighbours; but I told them, "I durſt not leave off preaching, for any Thing that Man could do unto me." They replied, "You ſhould conſider that you have a Wife and Children, and your Wife is now big with Child; and if you be taken from them, What can the poor Woman do, or how muſt ſhe provide for her Children?" I ſaid, "Let God look to that: If wicked Men be ſuffered to take away my Life, for calling Sinners to the Blood of Jesus; the Lord, whoſe Servant I am, will be a Huſband to the Widow, and a Father to the Fatherleſs. And was I aſſured, I ſhould be baniſhed or put to Death for preaching, and my Wife and Children beg their Bread barefoot, I dare not leave off: For the Words of our Lord purſue me, *He that loveth Father or Mother, Wife, or Children, or his own Life, more than me, is not worthy of me; and he that would ſave his Life, ſhall loſe it; and he that would loſe his Life for my Sake, ſhall ſave it.* Therefore pray for me, but do not tempt me to ſin againſt my own Soul."

A few Days after I went to *Pudſey;* but when I got there, the People of the Houſe durſt not let me preach: They told me the Conſtable had Orders to preſs me, and

desired me not to light, but go back directly. I rode down to a Public-House, where the Constable and some others were met together, and talked with them, when they told me that it was as the People had said, he had Orders to press me; but he said, "I will not: For you do not appear to be a Vagrant, and my Warrant runs for none but Vagrants." Many of the People followed me into the Lane, and I sat on Horseback exhorting them to keep close to GOD by Prayer, and the LORD would build the Walls of *Jerusalem* in those troublesome Times.

SOON after, I went to preach at *Leeds*. When I got there, I was told, that two Constables had Orders to press me, if I preached that Night. I said, "If the People will venture to hear, I dare not but preach;" and immediately I went to the Place, where was a large Congregation gathered together, to whom I preached; and a blessed Season it was. The two Constables gave great Heed to what was spoken, and never offered to disturb me, or any one of the People; but went away like Men Men that feared GOD.

I STILL kept hewing Stone in the Day-Time, and preaching every Night. One Day as I was at Work, the same *Dissenting* Minister, that had stopped me one Morning, came to me, and began to ask me many Questions: He seemed offended with my Answers, and said, He would have none of my Ifs nor Buts. I said, "Sir, They are none of mine, they are the Words of the LORD JESUS; and who is he that dare put asunder what the LORD hath joined together?" Then he replied, "Do you think GOD would cut you off, if you were to commit as great a Sin as ever you committed in all your

Life?" I ſaid, "I believe I ſhould thereby cut myſelf off from GOD; for the Prophet ſaith, *Your Sins have ſeparated between you and your* GOD: And GOD ſaith, *My People have committed two Evils; for they have forſaken me the Fountain of living Water, and have hewn out to themſelves Ciſterns, broken Ciſterns, that will hold no Water.* Now, Sir, GOD would not have ſaid, *They have forſaken me*, if they had never been acquainted with him; and I believe, that one of their Ciſterns, which they hewed to themſelves, was the Opinion you have in your Head, that Sin would not ſeparate the Soul from GOD." He ſaid, "You do not underſtand the Nature of GOD's Decree; for GOD doth not look upon Sin as Sin in the *Elect*: He did not behold Iniquity in *Jacob*, nor ſee Sin in *Iſrael*." I ſaid, "No, Sir, He did not; while *Jacob* was upright, and GOD was his Glory: At that Time, GOD rejoiced over him, to do him good, with his whole Heart, and his whole Soul; but when he committed Whoredom with the Daughters of *Moab*, and began to bow to their Idols, then GOD's Anger was kindled againſt *Iſrael*, and cut off 24,000 of them in his Wrath, even the very People which *Balaam* had pronoun ced bleſſed."

THEN his Brother-in-Law, who was by him, began to curſe and ſwear, and lifted up his Stick, ſaying, He could find in his Heart to knock me down, and called me, *Damned Dog*; and ſaid, "Canſt thou have the Impudence to talk ſo to a Miniſter? Thou deſerveſt thy Brains beat out." I ſaid, "Sir, Here is an Evidence of what I ſaid, for you can be angry with me for preaching Righteouſneſs by JESUS CHRIST, but you do not reprove this Man for blaſpheming the holy Name of GOD." Then they went away, and left me to my Work.

A LITTLE after, as I was at Work, a Man came to me, and ſaid, He had called at a Publick-Houſe for a Pint of Ale, a little Way from *Birſtal*, and he heard the Landlord offer to lay down *Five Pouuds*, with ſome that were drinking, that *John Nelſon* would be ſent for a Soldier, before ten Days were paſt. I ſaid, "The Will of the LORD be done; if GOD permit it to be ſo, this alſo ſhall turn to the Furtherance of the Goſpel." He ſaid, "I would have you take Care, for Evil is determined againſt you." I replied, "I am not my own, but the LORD'S: He that lays Hands on me, will burn his own Fingers, and GOD will deliver me after he hath tried me."

SOON after, as I was at Work at another Place, three Gentlemen came to me; and one of them began to ſpeak ſtrongly againſt Perfection: I gave him no Anſwer. Then another began to talk about Building; and ſaid, "Hewing of Stone is a fine Art." I replied, "Sir, It was a fine Art once, when there were 80,000 together, ſo ſkill'd in the Art, that every Man's Stones were perfectly fitted for the Places they were to have in the Temple, before they were brought off the Mountain; ſo that when they came to *Jeruſalem*, there was not one Stroke to ſtrike at them, nor the Sound of a Tool heard in the Building: Sir, You will allow thoſe Men to be Workmen that needed not to be aſhamed; for their Work was perfect before it came to *Jeruſalem*." The Gentleman ſaid, "You are right, you are right; I will never ſpeak againſt Holineſs being perfected in this World again; for certainly that Houſe of GOD, at *Jeruſalem*, was a Type of the Houſe eternal in the Heavens; and every Stone of that muſt be fitted perfectly for its Place

in this World, or it muſt not be admitted into that *New Jeruſalem.* He added, I thank you; and wiſh that all our Preachers may ſo ſquare their Work, after the Rule of GOD's Word, that they may not be aſhamed when they come to give up their Accounts to Him that is LORD of the Work."

WHEREVER I went to preach, for ten Days together, I was told, That the Conſtables had Orders to preſs me. My Anſwer was, "The Will of the LORD be done; for the Fierceneſs of Man ſhall turn to his Praiſe."

ON Friday, as I was hewing Stone, it was in my Mind, that Trouble was near at Hand; but the Words of *Iſaiah* were a Stay to me; *I even I am he that comforteth you: Who art thou that thou ſhouldſt be afraid of Man that ſhall die, or of the Son of Man, which ſhall be made as Graſs;* And again it came to me, *Fear thou not, For I am with thee; be not diſmayed, for I am thy GOD: I will ſtrengthen thee, yea I will help thee; I will uphold thee with the Right Hand of my Righteouſneſs: Behold, all they that were incenſed againſt thee, ſhall be aſhamed and confounded, they ſhall be as nothing; and they that ſtrive with thee ſhall periſh.*

AT Night I was met, as I was going to *Adwalton*, by one that told me, that the *Parſon* and *Alehouſe-Keepers* had agreed to preſs me that Night, and to ſend me away the next Morning; for the Commiſſioners were to ſit at *Halifax*, and they would diſpatch me before I could get any one to appear in my Behalf. And ſhe ſaid, "I would have you turn back; for there is one Alehouſe-Keeper, that ſwears he will preſs you, if his Arm rot from his Shoulder." I ſaid, "I cannot fear; for

God is on my Side, and his Word hath added Strength to my Soul this Day: And if I fall into the Hands of wicked Men, God ſhall be glorified thereby; and when he hath proved me in the Furnace, he will bring me forth as Gold."

Accordingly I went to *Adwalton*, and expounded at *John Booth*'s to a well-behaved Congregation. When I had done, *Joſeph Gibſon*, the Conſtable's Deputy (an Alehouſe-Keeper, who found his Craft was in Danger) preſſed me for a Soldier. I aſked him by whoſe Order? He ſaid, "Several of the Inhabitants of the Town, who did not like ſo much Preaching;" And by his own Talk it appear'd, they were thoſe of his own Craft, and the Clergyman, who had agreed together.

He cauſed me to go to the *White-Hart*, whither Mr. *Charleſworth*, and Mr. *Holmes* of *Sikehouſe*, and ſeveral more, went with us; and Mr. *Charleſworth* offered 500*l.* Bail for me 'till the next Day; but no Bail was to be taken for a *Methodiſt* (ſo called.) He proteſted I ſhould go to his Houſe. I made no Reſiſtance, but went, and ſeveral of our People with us; and we ſang an Hymn, and prayed together, and ſo parted.

Next Morning ſeveral People came to ſee me before we went from *Adwalton*. Here I was kept ten Hours before the Warrant came into his Houſe; and when the Conſtable came, he ſaid, If he had been there, he would have prevented what *Gibſon* had done.

Between Eight and Nine I went to *Birſtal*, to my Houſe; and after I had changed my Cloaths, we ſet out for *Halifax*; when I was brought before the Commiſſioners,

who ſmiled one at another as ſoon as they ſaw me. They bid the Door-Keepers not let any Man come in; But Mr. *Thomas Brooks* had got in with me; and they ſaid, That is one of his Converts. Then they called *Joſeph Gibſon*, and aſked, "How many Men have you brought?" He ſaid, One. Well, and what have you againſt him? "Why, Gentlemen, ſaid he, I have nothing to ſay againſt him, but he preaches to the People; and ſome of our Townſmen don't like ſo much Preaching." They broke out in Laughter; and one of them ſwore, I was fit to go for a Soldier, for there I might have Preaching enough. I ſaid to him, "Sir, You ought not to ſwear:" "Well, ſaid they to me, You have no Licence to preach, and you ſhall go for a Soldier;" Then, I ſaid, "Sir, I have ſurely as much Right to preach as you have to ſwear." He ſaid to the Captain, "Captain, Is he fit for you? Yes, he anſwered; "Then take him away."

But, I ſaid, "Here are ſeveral of my honeſt Neighbours; you ought to give me the Liberty of another Man, and hear what they ſay of me, whether I am ſuch an one as the Warrant mentions, or no." They anſwered, "Here is your Miniſter, [one of the Commiſſioners] and he has told us of your Character, and we will hear no more." So I found I was condemned before the Commiſſioners ſaw me.

Then Mr. *Brooks* laid the Petitions before them, ſent me by neighbouring Gentlemen, which teſtified I had done no Evil; but had behaved myſelf well in my Neighbourhood, and had always maintained my Family very well: and they deſired them to ſet me at Liberty. And Mr. *Brooks* ſaid, "Gentlemen, you ſee he is not ſuch a

Man as is mentioned in the Warrant." But they bid him hold his Peace, and ſaid, "You are one of his Pupils, and ought to go with him." He anſwered, "Why do you not ſend me then; for you have as much Right to ſend me as him."

THEN our Miniſter ſpoke and ſaid, "Young *Brooks* lives with a Woman of the worſt Character in our Town." When I heard him ſpeak againſt his Neighbours ſuch notorious Falſhoods as theſe, I thought it would be to no Purpoſe for Mr. *Brooks* to ſay any more; ſo I deſired him to be ſilent. Then they read the Papers ſent on my Behalf; and one of the Company aſked if he muſt put them on the File? But the Anwer to him by ſeveral was, "No; for if they be called for, they will make againſt us."

"So, ſaid I, Gentlemen, I ſee there is neither Law or Juſtice for a Man that is called a *Methodiſt;* but all is lawful that is done againſt me. I pray GOD forgive you, for you know not what you do." They anſwered, "Surely your Miniſter muſt be a better Judge of you than any other Man; and he has told us enough of you, and your Preaching." "Well, ſaid I, Mr. *C——t——*, What do you know of me that is Evil? Whom have I defrauded? Or where have I contracted a Debt that I cannot pay?" He ſaid, "You have no viſible Way of getting your Living." I anſwered, "I am as able to get my Living with my Hands, as any Man of my Trade in *England* is, and you know it: And had I not been at Work Yeſterday, and all the Week before?" But they bid the Captain take me away; and he came and ſaid, "We will take you off Preaching ſoon." I anſwered,

"You muſt firſt aſk my Maſter's Leave." But, he ſaid, "We will make you give over." I replied, "It is out of your Power." Then he thruſt me into a Corner of the Room, and ſaid, I ſhould have Company preſently.

Afterwards ſeveral were brought to the Commiſſioners, and three condemned to go with me, and four or five acquitted. But all had their Neighbours to ſpeak for them, except me; for what Need was there of any other Witneſs?

Glory be to God on high! He kept my Soul all this Time in perfect Peace; and I could ſay to him, from my Heart,

Whilst Thou, O God, art nigh,
My Soul diſdains to fear;
Sin and Satan I defy,
Still impotently near:
Earth and Hell their Wars may wage,
Calm I mark their vain Deſign,
Smile to ſee them idly rage,
Againſt a Child of thine.

Then the Captain read the Articles of War to us that were condemned, and ſaid, "You hear your Doom is Death if you diſobey us." I anſwered, "I do not fear the Man that can kill me, any more than I do him that can cut down a Dogſtander. For I know my Life is hid with Christ in God; and he will judge between you and me one Day; But I beſeech him not to lay this Sin to your Charge." And to Mr. *C*——, I ſaid, "Sir, I pray God forgive you; for you have given me ſuch a Character, as not another Man in *England* will that knows me."

I was greatly ſurpriſed to ſee Men ſit on the Judgment Seat, and drink and ſwear as they did; and a Man that had a Commiſſion from God to reprove all that do ſuch Things, could hear and ſee, and yet never ſpeak in God's Cauſe. It made me cry out to the Lord, "Take the Matter into thy Hand, O God, for Righteouſneſs is fallen in the Streets, and Iniquity bears Rule." But I could not hear them ſwear, but muſt ſpeak to them, although they mocked at my Reproof.

Then we were guarded to *Halifax*; (but the Keeper would not let us come into his Goal) then to the Officer's Quarters, and kept till Six at Night; where *John Rhodes*, and *Thomas Charleſworth* of *Little Gummerſel*, came to ſee me, and cared for my Soul, as if they had been my Mother's Sons. O, my God, remember them for Good, and give them and their Houſes, and all that wiſh well to our *Sion*, to rejoice in the Gladneſs of thy People!

At Six we ſet out for *Bradford*, and many of the Inhabitants of *Halifax* prayed for me, and wept to ſee me in the Hands of unrighteous and cruel Men. But I ſaid, "Fear not, God hath his Way in the Whirlwind; and he will plead my Cauſe; only pray for me, that my Faith fail not."

When we were about Half-way between *Halifax* and *Bradford*, one of the Soldiers ſaid to me, "Sir, I am ſorry for you; for the Captain is ordered, by the Commiſſioners, to put you in the Dungeon: But I will ſpeak to him, and if he will let me have the Care of you, you ſhall lie with me; for the Dungeon is a loathſome Place as ever I ſaw." I thanked him for his Offer; but when

we got to *Bradford*, we were drawn up in the Street where the Croſs did ſtand; and the Captain ſent and fetched the Keeper of the Dungeon, and ſaid, "Take this Man and put him into the Dungeon; and take this other along with you." —— (a poor harmleſs Man, all the Cloaths upon whoſe Back were not worth One Shilling; neither did they lay any Thing to his Charge, when he was ordered for a Soldier.)

But when we came to the Dungeon Door, the Soldier, who ſpoke to me by the Way, went to the Captain, and ſaid, "Sir, If you will give me Charge over Mr. *Nelſon*, my Life for his, he ſhall be forth-coming in the Morning; but the Captain threatened to break his Head if he ſpoke about me any more.

He came to us before I went down, and I aſked him, "Sir, what have I done, that I muſt go to the Dungeon? If you are afraid of me, that I ſhould run away, ſet a Guard over me in a Room, and I will pay them." He anſwered, My Order is to put you in the Dungeon. So I ſee my Lord's Word is fulfilled, *The Servant is not above his Maſter*. For thoſe, who were accuſed of Thieving, and great Evils which they had done in the Neighbourhood, muſt eat and drink, and lie on Feather Beds; but I only deſired a little Water, and it was refuſed me by the Captain, although I had nothing all Day, except a little Tea in the Morning. But my Maſter never ſends his Servants a Warfare at their own Charge. He gives Strength according to our Day. For, when I came into the Dungeon, that ſtunk worſe than an Hogſtye, or Little-houſe, by Reaſon of the Blood and Filth which ſink from the Butchers who kill over it. My Soul was ſo fil-

led with the Love of God, that it was as a Paradiſe to me.

Then could I cry out, O the glorious Liberty of the Sons of God! And I fell down on my Knees, and gave God thanks that he counted me worthy to be put in a Dungeon for the Truth's Sake; and prayed, that my Enemies might be ſaved from the Wrath to come, I think, with as much Deſire as I could feel for my own Mother's Children I wiſhed they were as happy in their Houſes as I was in the Dungeon.

About Ten, ſeveral of the People came to the Dungeon Door, and brought me ſome Candles, and put me ſone Meat and Water in through the Hole of the Door. When I had eat and drank, I gave God Thanks: And we ſang Hymns almoſt all Night, they without, and I within.

The ſame Night, a Man that lives in *Bradford* came to the Dungeon; and though he was an Enemy to the *Methodiſts*, ſo called, when he ſmelt the ill Savour of the Place, he ſaid, "Humanity moves me;" and went away directly; and about Eleven came again, and ſaid, "I will aſſure you I am not in your Way of Thinking, but, for all that, I have been with your Captain, and offered 10*l.* Bail for you, and myſelf as a Priſoner, if he would let you lie in a Bed, but all in vain, for I can get nothing of him but bad Words. If the Juſtice was in Town, I would have gone to him, and would ſoon have fetched you out: But ſince it is as it is, I pray God plead your Cauſe." O my God, let not him that would give a Cup of Cold Water to thy Servants loſe his Reward: But do thou bleſs him, and bleſs thy People; I beſeech thee to have Mercy on our Enemies, and let not

thy heavy Judgments fall upon them; but be thou glorified in their Converſion, not in their Deſtruction.

The poor Man that was with me, might have ſtarved, if my Friends had not brought him Meat: For when they had locked us up, they went to their Lodgings, and took no more Thought of us that Night. Here we had not ſo much as a Stone to ſit on.

When the Man and I were laid down upon a little ſtinking Straw, "Pray you, Sir, (ſaid he) are all theſe your Kinsfolk, that they love you ſo well? I think they are the lovingeſt People that ever I ſaw in my Life." I anſwered, "By this you may know that they are Jesus Christ's Diſciples; for this is the Mark he himſelf has given, whereby all Men might know his Diſciples from the unbelieving World."

At Four in the Morning, my Wife and ſeveral more came to the Dungeon, and ſpoke to me through the Hole of the Door; and I ſaid, "*Jeremiah*'s Lot is fallen upon me." Then it came to my Remembrance, that when I was about thirteen or fourteen Years old, I often thought if God would make me like *Jeremiah*, to ſtand, and ſpeak his Words to the People in the Streets, as he did, I ſhould not mind who caſt Dirt at me. And now I am, in ſome Meaſure, treated as he was, for perſuading Men to flee from the Wrath to come.

My Wife ſaid, "Fear not: the Cauſe is God's, for which you are here, and he will plead it himſelf. Therefore be not concerned about me and the Children; for he that feeds the young Ravens will be mindful of us. He will give you Strength for your Day; and after we have ſuffered a while, he will perfect that which is lacking in

our Souls, and then bring us where the wicked ceaſe from troubling, and where the Weary are at Reſt."

So ſaid they all that were with her at the Door. I was greatly refreſhed by finding my Wife ſo ſtrong in Faith, when ſhe was like to be left with two Children, and big with Child at the ſame Time; and ſaid, "I cannot fear either Man or Devil, ſo long as I find the Love of God as I do now: For he has cheered my Heart as with ſweet Wine, ever ſince he ſuffered me to be caſt into Priſon. O that I may be faithful unto Death, and I ſhall receive the Crown of Life! For not one Word of Jesus ſhall fall to the Ground 'till all be accompliſhed."

About Five in the Morning they took me out, and we were guarded to *Leeds*, and ſtood in the Street till Ten. Hundreds flocked to ſee me. Some ſaid, "It is a Shame to ſend a Man for a Soldier for ſpeaking the Truth; for many of our Neighbours that follow the *Methodiſts*, and were as wicked before as any People in the Town, are now like new Creatures; for we don't hear an ill Word come out of their Mouths." Others cried, "I wiſh they were all hanged out of the Way, for they make People go mad: And one cannot get drunk or ſwear, but every Fool muſt correct us, as if we were to be taught by them. But I hope they will now be brought to Naught, for that is one of the worſt of them."

As I was ſtanding, a jolly well-dreſſed Woman came up to me, and put her Face almoſt to mine, and ſaid, "Now, *Nelſon*, where is thy God: Thou ſaidſt at *Shent*'s Door, as thou waſt preaching, thou waſt no more afraid

of his Promiſe failing, than thou waſt of dropping thro' the Heart of the Earth!" I replied, "Look in the 7th Chapter of *Micah*, and the 8th and 10th Verſes."

Just as the Church began, I was guarded to the Goal, and the others ordered to the Alehouſe. The Goal-Keeper here was very civil; for he let my Friends come in ſeveral Times to ſee me. I thought of the *Pilgrim's Progreſs*; for Hundreds of People in the Streets ſtood and looked at me thro' the Iron Grate, and were ready to fight about me. Several would have given Bail for me, if they would let me out; but I was told that an Hundred Pounds was refuſed, which was offered by a Stranger for me. I am too notorious a Criminal to be allowed ſuch Favours; for Chriſtianity is a Crime, which the World can never forgive.

At Night, I believe, an Hundred of our Friends were with me in the Goal together. We ſang an Hymn, and prayed, I gave an Exhortation, and ſo parted. But Mr. *H.* was not willing I ſhould lie on ſtinking Straw, and ſent me a Bed to lie on. I find the Time is not yet come for me to be hated of all Men for Christ's Sake. I pray God to give me Strength for that Day! Glory be to his holy Name; hitherto his Grace is ſufficient for me, and I hang upon his Promiſe for Strength in my next Trials.

At Five on Monday Morning I was let out of Goal, and we marched off for *York* directly; many of our Friends went with us out of the Town near three Miles; but when I came to take my Leave, they mourned as one that had loſt his Firſt-born. I ſpake comfortable Words to them, and bid them, "Stand faſt, in nothing terrified by your Adverſaries; which is to them an evi-

dent Token of Perdition, but to you of Salvation, and that of GOD. So the Peace of GOD be with you all."

WE came to *York* by Three, and were brought before ſeveral of the Officers, at the *Black-Swan*, in *Coney-Street*, who ſeemed to rejoice as Men that had taken great Spoil, and ſaluted me with many a grievous Oath. It brought ſomething to my Mind, which I had ſpoken in the Fields to the LORD, when he had broke a great Cloud, that was on my Soul, through my refuſing to preach when many deſired me, and I had Time, but conſulted with Fleſh and Blood. And *Jonah* like I fled from the Preſence of the LORD, down into a Valley near the Side of a Wood, when GOD laid his Hand on me, and bro't my Soul into great Diſtreſs, ſo that I threw myſelf on the Ground, and requeſted for Death; ſeeing it more agreeable to Fleſh and Blood, to be a Shepherd's Dog than a Preacher of the Goſpel: For his Hand is againſt every Man, and every Man's Hand is againſt him. But, at the Remembrance of the Prophets and Apoſtles, and CHRIST himſelf, what Contradictions, and Tribulation, they all met with, the Cloud broke, and my Soul was ſo refreſhed with the Love of GOD, that I cried out, "My LORD and my GOD! Now thou haſt given me Strength, forſake me not; and if thou ſend me to Hell, to preach to Devils, I am ready to go."

WHEN I was before theſe Officers, and heard ſuch horrid Language, I thought Hell could not be much worſe than the Company I was in. I aſked them, "Do you believe there is one GOD, and that he is a GOD of Truth?" They ſaid, We do. I anſwered, "I cannot believe you, I tell you plainly." Why ſo? I replied,

" I cannot think that any Man of common Underſtanding, who believes that God is true, dares take his Name in vain; much leſs do you believe God can hear you, when you pray him to damn your Souls. Now, ſuppoſe God ſhould grant you the Damnation you pray for, What miſerable Wretches would you be? Do you know, that you muſt one Day appear before that God, who *will not hold him guiltleſs that taketh his Name in Vain?*

As I reaſoned with them about a future State, they ſeemed to ſhrink, as if I had thrown Fire at them; but they ſoon put away the Conviction, and ſaid, " You muſt not preach here, for you are delivered to us for a Soldier; and muſt not talk ſo to us that are Officers." I anſwered, " There is but one Way for you to prevent me." They ſaid, What is that? I replied, " It is to ſwear no more in my Hearing."

Then we were guarded thro' the City; but it was as if Hell was moved from beneath to meet me at my Coming. The Streets and Windows were filled with People, who ſhouted and huzza'd as if I had been one that had laid waſte the Nation. But the Lord made my Brow like Braſs, ſo that I could look on them as Graſshoppers, and paſs through the City, as if there had been none in it, but God and me—O that I may never offend my gracious God, or provoke him to take his Loving-Kindneſs from me!—Then, though I go through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no Evil. Even now I find his Word fulfilled, where he ſaith, *I will deliver thee from ſudden Fear, and from Terror; for it ſhall not come near thee.* Verily thou art a God of Truth! O be merciful to this great City, whoſe Streets ring with Curſes; and turn upon them a pure Language, that their

Souls may be ſaved, and the Enemy diſappointed of his Hope!

I was brought to the Guard-Houſe, and the Officers caſt Lots for me, and it was Captain *S*———'s Lot to have me. Then they offered me Money, but I refuſed to take it; and they bid the Serjeant Hand-cuff me, and ſend me to Priſon. I was guarded thither by a File of Muſqueteers, but not Hand-cuffed, and kept two Nights and Part of three Days; during which Time I was beſet with ſuch Curſers and Swearers, as could hardly be matched out of Hell. So I had Work enough, both Day and Night, to reprove them. I found they could not ſtand my Words, but the moſt hardened among them ſhrunk, and wiſhed they could leave it off, and never ſwear more.

Several of the Town's People came and aſked me of the Doctrine that the *Methodiſts* preached; which make their Names, ſaid they, to be loathed by all Sects and Parties in the Nation. My Anſwer was, "That ſame Doctrine it is, which made *Jews* and *Gentiles* conſpire againſt Jesus Christ, who firſt preached it; and whoever he be that bears the ſame Teſtimony, he muſt meet with the ſame Treatment. Our Lord hath ſaid, *Ye ſhall be hated of all Men for my Sake.* And again, *If they have perſecuted me, they will alſo perſecute you.* What! Do you think Christ would be found a Liar, and all his Apoſtles, who told us of the Things that are done in this our Day? Nay, verily, Heaven and Earth ſhall paſs away, but not one Word of Christ's ſhall fall to the Ground.

When I had opened the Scriptures, and told them the fundamental Points of our Doctrine, they ſaid one

to another, "This People is not what the World repreſents them; for if this is their Doctrine, there is not a Man in *England* can contradict them." They offered me ſtrong Drink, (but I told them I did not chuſe it) wiſhed me out of my Enemies Hands, and left me to my Company of Drunkards and Swearers.

I MAY indeed ſay, I have fought with Beaſts at *York*, for ſo theſe Men live; yet my Speaking to them was not in vain; for they did bridle their Tongues in my Preſence, after the firſt 24 Hours. When they did ſpeak any blaſphemous Words, if I did but turn, and look them in the Face, they look'd like Criminals before the Magiſtrate.

I WAS a Stranger in *York*, not knowing one Perſon in the City.

THE next Morning I lay on the Boards to reſt me, and fell aſleep, when I dreamt of *Daniel* in the Lion's Den: I was awaked by One, crying, *Nelſon*, *Nelſon*; when I ſtarted up, ſaying, "Who wants me?" That Inſtant, three Women came to the Door, and brought me ſome Food. They were entire Strangers to me, and I to them; "But thou, LORD, careſt for me."

ON Tueſday Night, my Wife and Siſter *Mitchel* came to ſee me, and found me lying on the Boards. I ſaid, "Behold the Fruits of the Goſpel:" Now you ſee the Word of GOD is fulfilled, *They lay a Snare for him that reproveth in the Gate, and he that turneth from Evil maketh himſelf a Prey.* But GOD looks down from Heaven, and will plead our Cauſe; fear not.—No, anſwered they, We do not fear; for our GOD is as able to deliver now, as he was 1700 Years ago. So they took their Leave of

me that Night, wiſhing me a good Repoſe on my wooden Bed; where, Thanks be to GOD, I ſlept as well as if I had been on a Bed of Down.

NEXT Morning they brought me ſomething to eat, and bid me be ſtrong in the LORD, and not fear them that can kill the Body only. My Heart was rejoiced to ſee them ſo ſtedfaſt in the Faith.

THIS Day a Court-Martial was held, and I was guarded to it by a File of Muſqueteers, with their Bayonets fixed to their Pieces. When I came before the Court, they aſked what is this Man's Crime? The Anſwer was, This is the *Methodiſt* Preacher, and he refuſes to take Money. Then they turned to me, and ſaid, "Sir, you need not find Fault with us, for we muſt obey our Orders, which are to make you act as a Soldier; for you are delivered to us; and if you have not Juſtice done you, we cannot help it."

MY Anſwer was, "I ſhall not fight; for I cannot bow my Knee before the LORD, to pray for a Man, and get up and kill him when I have done: For I know GOD both hears me ſpeak, and ſees me act; and I ſhould expect the Lot of the Hypocrite, if my Actions contradict my Prayers." Well, don't ſtand preaching to us, ſaid they, for we muſt make you obey us. Serjeant, give him ſome Money; he offered me Two Shillings, but I refuſed to take it. They threatened me ſore, but I could not fear them at all. Well, ſaid they, if you run away, you are as liable to ſuffer as if you had taken our Money. I anſwered, if I cannot be diſcharged lawfully, I ſhall not run away; if I do, puniſh me as you pleaſe. Then they ordered the Serjeant to go to Quarters with

me; who took me to the *Wild-Man* in *Petergate*, where the People behaved well to me, though they had Eight more quartered upon them. They ſaid, It is a Pity you ſhould come among ſuch a wicked Crew as theſe we have; for there are but few like them in the World. They ordered me a Room and Bed to myſelf. Bleſſed be GOD, who gives me Favour in the Sight of the *Egyptians*, who have been ſo uſed by thoſe of our own Church. Theſe People were profeſſed *Papiſts*, who, I might imagine, would ſhew no more Mercy to a Man that preaches Salvation by Faith, than they would do to a mad Dog; yet I ſee it is not the Man that makes the Chriſtian, but the Mind that was in CHRIST,; and whoſoever hath this Mind in him, he is a Chriſtian, let the World call him what they will.

I CAME to *Margaret Townſhend*'s, and met with my Wife and Siſter *Mitchel*, who rejoiced to ſee my Feet once more out of Priſon: We ſang Praiſes to GOD for his great Mercies to me at this Time, and paſſed the Afternoon in encouraging each other. Next Morning I ſent them out of Town, and went, as I was ordered, to parade at the *Blue-Boar*, in *Caſtlegate*; where the Officers ordered Corporal *W*—— to fetch me a Gun and other warlike Inſtruments, and though he ſeemed to ſhudder at the Taſk, he was forced to obey; and when he brought them, and was girding them about me, he trembled as if he had the Palſy.

I ASKED why they girt me with theſe warlike Habiliments, for I am a Man averſe to War, and ſhall not fight, but under the Prince of Peace, the Captain of my Salvation; and the Weapons he gives me are not carnal like theſe. Well, ſaid they, but you muſt bear theſe,

'till you can get your Diſcharge. As you put them on me, I anſwered, "I will bear them as a Croſs, and uſe them as far as I can, without defiling my Conſcience; but that I will not do for any Man on Earth.

THE Officers bid them march us off to *Heworth-Moor*, to learn the Exerciſe of a Soldier: But Corporal *W*—— ſeemed as tender of me as if he had been my own Father, and carried the Gun for me to the Field. But when he came to teach me their Exerciſe, his Heart ſeemed to fail him, and he bid me lay down the Gun, and we fell into Diſcourſe. I found he had the Fear of GOD before his Eyes, and the LORD had ſhewn him the Light of his Countenance. But he was as a Sparrow alone on the Houſe-Top; none cared for his Converſation; but they all deſpiſed him, becauſe he would not get drunk, and ſwear as they did. O, my GOD, remember him for Good always, I beſeech Thee.

NEXT Day I was ordered to the Field, and others muſt teach me the warlike Exerciſe; who alſo behaved civilly to me. I had more to ſee me than all the reſt, and it cauſed the Truth to break out the more, and removed Prejudice from many. I found the People of *York* looked upon one that is called a *Methodiſt*, as one that has the Plague, and infects all he comes near; and they bleſſed GOD, that none had come to preach there.

BUT if I was bound, the Word of GOD was not bound; for if any did blaſpheme, I reproved them, whether rich or poor, and fell into many Diſputes with them; and GOD gave me Words, ſuch as they could not reſiſt. My Diſcourſes had ſuch an Effect on them, that they ſaid, They wiſhed Mr. *Weſley* would come and preach there. I

gave them ſeveral of our little Books; ſo by hearing and reading, they found out the Doctrine to be only the plain Word of God. And now ſeveral attended my coming to Field; not to ſee me as before, but to aſk Queſtions, and to know of the New Doctrine (as ſome were pleaſed to call it.) Surely by all theſe Things ſhall the Goſpel be ſpread. The Lord is in the Tempeſt, and it ſhall turn to his Glory; Satan doth but whet a Knife to cut his own Throat.

On Sunday the 13th, I went to *Coney-Street* Church, and the Lord manifeſted himſelf to me in great Love at the Sacrament. At Night, *Hannah Scolefield* and I, and our Brother *Haughton*, from *Mancheſter*, with two or three more, went out into the Fields, thinking to retire; but ſome had ſeen us, and told others that we were gone to ſing Hymns. We had been but a few Minutes together, before we had near an Hundred to keep us Company. We ſang two Hymns, and I gave them an Exhortation: They received my Words with Meekneſs, and wiſhed to hear me again.

One Day as I was talking to the People, a Man came, and feigned himſelf to be concerned about his Soul; as he was coming, it was impreſſed upon me, that he was a Deceiver; and as ſoon as he approached, I ſaid, "You are a wicked Man; and Satan hath ſent you with a Lye in your Mouth, but God will not be mocked." He went away as one condemned: Before he had gone 100 Yards, he fell down and broke a Limb, and diſlocated his Shoulder; then he roared like a Bear, ſaying, It was a juſt Judgment from God, fallen on him, and deſired me to pray for him.

We went a Mile another Way; but there were Poople walking there alſo, who knew me, and flocked to us, and deſired to hear what Sort of Doctrine it is we preach, which cauſes all Men to hate us. I ſaid, "It is the Doctrine of Jesus Christ, which made all Men hate him; and ye are ſenſible our great Shepherd ſaid, *Ye ſhall be hated of all Men for my Sake.* But, they ſaid, This is a Chriſtian Land, and it is not ſo now. Well, ſaid I, Then you muſt ſay the Goſpel is not an everlaſting Goſpel, or you declare us bleſt, and almoſt all the Preachers in *England* curſt. They ſaid, What do we point the Bleſſings to you, and the Curſe to all the reſt? We think it the other Way. Then, ſaid I, You do not think as Christ ſpake; for he ſaid, *Bleſſed are ye, when all Men ſpeak Evil of you, and hate you for my Sake and the Goſpel's: Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for ſo they did to the Prophets of old. But Woe unto you when all Men ſpeak well of you; for ſo they ſpake well of the falſe Prophets.* Upon this they were ſilent, but wiſhed they could hear me themſelves, then they could judge better. By this Time a great Company was come together, deſiring to hear me, and God gave me to ſpeak plain, and to their Hearts. When I had done, ſeveral of them ſaid, they would go ten Miles to hear ſuch another Diſcourſe.—The Prejudice ſeemed taken out of their Minds at a Stroke; and they cried, This is the Doctrine which ought to be preached, let Man ſay what they will againſt it.

As we came back, one of our Company ſaid, I wonder the Devil cannot perceive, that his Striving to ſuppreſs the Goſpel, is like ſtriving to quench the Fire by caſting Oil into it. As God ſpake, ſo it is I ſee this Day. His Servants are like Brands of Fire caſt into dry Stubble.

Surely God will be glorified in your Captivity: Only let us watch and pray, that the Enemy get no Advantage over us.

The Day following I went, as before, to Exerciſe, when many came to talk with me; ſome to diſpute, and ſome who earneſtly deſired to be ſaved. Among the Diſputers was a Clergyman: I knew him; for I had ſeen him in his Gown three Days before. When ſeveral, who appeared as Gentlemen, diſputed hotly againſt all the Power of Religion, I ſhewed them, from the Articles, Homilies, and Prayers of our own Church, that thoſe, who ſpake as they did, were no Members of the Church of *England:* For to be a real Member of Christ's Church, is to feel Christ in us; to know he died for his Church, and that by his Death we are delivered from Death Eternal; to find that Spirit, which raiſed him from the Dead, raiſing us from the Death of Sin, that our Bodies may be the undefiled Temples of the Living God, an holy Habitation of God, through his Spirit dwelling in us. For as many as have the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God; and if any Man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Nay, if you know not, (I added) that Christ is in you, you are now in a State of Reprobation. So, ſaid they, You have condemned us all at a Stroke. I anſwered, I have condemned no Man; for I have not ſpoken my own, but the Words of God, as I appeal to your Conſciences, you that have ever read them.

When they were put to Silence, the Miniſter began to explain the Spirit of God out of the World; as what could not be felt or perceived at all, neither was it neceſſary, now we had the Scriptures to go by. I ſaid, It is

highly neceſſary, if the Scriptures be true; for they tell me, if I have not the Spirit of CHRIST, I am none of his; and if I am not his, I muſt belong to the Devil: For they two ſhare the World between them.———Beſides, If there be no ſuch Thing as receiving the Holy Ghoſt now-a-days, as you ſay, then he, who repeats the Prayers of the Church, offers to GOD the Sacrifice of Fools. Here he ſtormed at me, and called me an *Enthuſiaſt*, and ſaid, To talk of the Spirit was all a Deluſion. Hold, Sir, I replied, Or I ſhall expoſe you before the People, which I did not deſign to do. How could you affirm, before GOD and the Congregation, That you were inwardly moved by the Holy Ghoſt to take upon you the Office of a Deacon; and now teſtify there is no ſuch Thing as being moved by the Holy Ghoſt? He ſaid, Did I ſay ſo? Yes, Sir, I anſwered, You did, when you received Holy Orders. He turned pale, ſpake not ten Words more, but went away: I have met him ſeveral Times ſince, and he ſpeaks kindly to me.

I HAD ſome every Day to diſpute with me; and every Night ſome to converſe with me, who wanted to know the Way to *Sion*. The People now cry out, When will Mr. *Weſley* come, for here are Thouſands in this Town would gladly hear him. Indeed I find a great Deſire in them to know the Way of Salvation; nay, and they ſeem willing to be ſaved GOD's own Way; that is, *from* their Sins, not *in* them. Surely the LORD will be mindful of them, and give them Teachers after his own Heart.

THE ſecond Sunday I went to Church, and my Heart was comforted again by the Love of GOD in the Sacra-

ment. God, I find, will meet with us in his own Ways: O may we never forſake them!

This Week I had ſeveral of the Brethren to ſee me, and we were comforted together. Our Brother *Aſh* brought me ſome little Books, which I gave to the People who came to ſee me: So that by my Speaking, and their Reading, many began to be alarmed, and ſent for me to their Houſes, to enquire, How can theſe Things be, which we affirm? For if theſe Things are ſo as you ſay, and Mr. *Weſley* has here written, then we are not Chriſtians. I told them I would prove theſe Things to be true, both from our own Church, and from the written Word of God; and if you find you have not theſe inward Marks of Faith, ſuch as, Peace, Joy, Love, the Witneſs of the Spirit, you are no Chriſtians yet; but that is no Reaſon why ye ſhould not become ſuch: For Christ has commanded Repentance and Remiſſion of Sins to be preached to every Soul in his Name; and he doth actually pardon and abſolve all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Goſpel. Therefore ſeek, and you ſhall find; for the Truth of God binds him to give to every one that aſketh.

The People attended my going to the Field all this Week; and when I went along the Streets, they came out of their Houſes to ſtare at me, as if I had been a Monſter. I have read that they would not ſuffer them to buy or ſell in the City, unleſs they had the Mark of the Beaſt; but here, without his Mark we cannot ſo much as paſs the Streets. O my God, Why is thy Servant as a ſpeckled Bird in this which is called a Chriſtian Country? Called after thy moſt ſacred Name; which whoſoever nameth ſhould depart from Iniquity. How is the faith-

ful City become an Harlot, and thy People taken Captive by the Enemy at his Will. It is Time for thee, LORD, to lay to thy Hand, for they have deſtroyed thy Law!

ONE Day this Week, after my Exerciſe on the Moor, there came a Gentleman in Gold-Lace, and a Miniſter in Diſguiſe, and began aſking me Queſtions; which I anſwered according to the Ability GOD gave me; many flocked round about us to hear, for our Diſpute was long, and hot on their Side. I believe we had talked half an Hour before I perceived he was a Miniſter; for I took him for a Lawyer, and ſuch a one as believed there was no GOD: For if I ſpake of the Scripture, he threw up his Head and called me Fool, and bid me hold my Nonſenſe. I ſaid, "That which you call Nonſenſe, I call the higheſt Wiſdom." When I ſpake any Thing of the Spirit of GOD, he heaved his Cane at me, as if he would have ſtruck me: But GOD gave me perfect Peace in my Soul, and Words that made him ſtart, and convinced the Bye-ſtanders of the Truth. He was ſo enraged that he foamed at the Mouth like a Horſe that is hard rid. But when I underſtood that he was a Miniſter, I ſaid, "Hold, Sir, Let me ſpeak a little by your Leave. You call yourſelf a Miniſter of the Church of *England*, do you not? I do. Pray then, Sir, What Doctrine do you preach? for you make the Word of GOD of none Effect, and you deny all Inſpiration. He replied, "So I do deny all Inſpiration." How dare you then pray for the Inſpiration of GOD's Spirit, when you do not believe there is any ſuch Thing? When he had raged a while, he ſaid, I believe you have read the Book of *Job*, and made it all your own. I anſwered, "I have Need of Patience, who have Men of ſuch Principles as you to talk

with, that regard not what they ſay to provoke one; but I thank GOD, you have not done it yet.—He replied, His Reaſon for ſpeaking ſo was, becauſe I could not be quiet with my Nonſenſe and Inſpiration. And, I hear, you have preached ſeveral Times ſince you came, and have filled the Heads of many in this Town with your new Doctrine. I told him I had not preached publickly ſince I came, but did not know how ſoon I might. Then he ſhook his Stick, ſtampt, and ſaid in Anger, "If you do preach publickly, we ſhall take an Order with you, which ſhall be worſe than ſending you for a Soldier." Let GOD look to that, I anſwered; for by his Grace, I can love all Men, but fear none, that can kill the Body only.—I aſſure you, it is not the Fear of Man which ſhall hinder me from Preaching: for where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is Liberty. When he began to be calm a little, I aſked him, Sir, Suppoſe you had been inwardly moved by the Holy Ghoſt to preach the Goſpel; if the outward Ordination was refuſed you, when you believed yourſelf called according to the Will of CHRIST to preach, would you forbear Preaching? that is, would you obey Man or GOD? I ſuppoſe, ſaid he, You think you have put an hard Queſtion to me. But, hard or eaſy, he never anſwered it; and I cannot remember that ever I ſaw him ſince. Juſt as he went away he challenged me to go into a Room with him; but, I ſaid, "I have done fighting, Sir."

ON Saturday, ſeveral deſired me to preach on Sunday Morning. I told them I ſhould take a Walk out to the Moor at half an Hour after Seven. Accordingly, I did ſo, and found thrice as many as I expected, and preached to about 300 well-behaved People, who intreated me

to preach again to them at Night. I anſwered ſome of them, I did not know but I might: Yet I gave no public Notice: But one told another, and ſpread it through the City.

I WENT to the Minſter, and heard the Biſhop preach, and received the bleſſed Sacrament at his Hands. At Seven in the Evening, I went to the Moor, and found an unexpected Congregation, I believe 6000 People. But there was nothing prepared for me to ſtand on, and great Part of the Soldiers were there almoſt drunk, and began to quarrel with the People that crouded me; ſo that I ſaw there was likely to be Miſchief done, and prevented it by withdrawing. If I had preached, I believe they would have behaved quietly, for they ſeemed to have a great Deſire to hear what this Doctrine is. I had not the Opportunity of ſatisfying them at this Time; but they that heard in the Morning told others, and inflamed them the more with a Deſire to hear for themſelves. Several ſent for me to their Houſes, and others came to me: So I ſee GOD will work, and who ſhall hinder? LORD, open their Underſtandings that they may know the Things which belong to their everlaſting Peace.

ON Monday I heard, that ſome Clergymen were with the Officers; and, at Night, one of the Officers ſent for me, and ſaid, "What, you cannot leave off your Preaching yet; but we muſt be blamed about you.—But if ever you preach publicly more, you ſhall be ſeverelywhipped." My anſwer was, I am not careful in this Matter. It is better to obey GOD than Man! I believe it is the Will of GOD that I ſhould preach; and I have not taken Man to pleaſe in any Thing that will offend my GOD.

With many Threats he bid me go, but I made no Promiſe to obey him, neither did I intend it in this Caſe; for I had promiſed to go to *Ackam*, a Village about a Mile out of *York*, the next Evening: Accordingly I went and preached to almoſt all the Inhabitants, in a Field. The Lord gave me to ſpeak his Word freely, and ſent it with Power to their Hearts: The Rock was ſtruck, and the water guſhed out. All whom I ſaw behaved well; many ſaid they hoped I would come again; "For let Men ſay what they will of this People, this is the Truth, and ſo we ſhall find it one Day."

As I came down the Street, an Alderman of *York*, and his Wife, who had been to hear me, were ſtanding at the Gate of his Houſe, and he called to me, and ſaid, If you pleaſe to accept of a Glaſs of any Sort of Liquor my Houſe affords, it is at your Service: I ſaid, "I thank you for your Good-will, but I don't care to drink." Several others offered me Drink, but I took none. They prayed me to come once a Week, as long as I ſtayed in *York*. Lord, be mindful of this People, I beſeech thee, and ſend them thoſe who will preach Righteouſneſs by Faith in Jesus Christ: And O that they may be found in the Wedding-Garment in that Day, when every Covering, which is not of thy Spirit, will be found as filthy Rags before thy pure Eyes.

All that Week I had Company as much as I could tell what to do with. Several deſired me to preach on Sunday Morning. I did not promiſe, but went to diſcourſe with about a Score, at Seven, on the Moor: Others had a Suſpicion of my being there, and I believe

200 flocked round me, as ſoon as they ſaw me walking, and begged me to preach to them: I told them I ſtood in *Jeopardy* if I did; but they anſwered, We are more in Danger than you, for our Souls are in Danger; on which it came into my Mind that I had freely received, and ought freely to give: Wherefore I preached to them, and God was with us of a Truth, and the Hearts of the People were opened to receive the Word in Love.

From thence I went to Siſter *Townſhend*'s, where I found my own Brother, and Brother *Mitchell*, who came to ſee me; and we were comforted together. Our Time was ſhort, for I had but half an Hour, before I was to anſwer for what I had done. Somebody had told the Enſign that I had been preaching; ſo he ſent for me and ſaid, "D—n your Blood, Sir, Have you been preaching this Morning? I told him I had; on which he ſwore he would have no Preaching nor Praying in their Regiment. Then ſaid I, "Sir, You ought to have no Swearing nor Curſing neither; for ſurely I have as much Right to pray and preach, as you have to curſe and ſwear.

He ſwore again that I ſhould be damnably whipped for what I had done. I anſwered, "Let God look to that, the Cauſe is his. But if you don't leave off your Curſing and Swearing, it will be worſe with you than with me." Then he ſaid, "Corporal, Put this Fellow in Priſon directly." The Corporal ſaid, "Sir, I muſt not carry a Man to Priſon, unleſs I give in his Crime with him." Well, ſaid he, It is for diſobeying Orders. So I ſee an Hundred may diſobey all the Orders of God, and there is no Notice taken of them; nor do the common People cry out, hang them out of the Way: But if

one of a Thouſand begins to reprove them for Sin, they hale him to Priſon, as if he had killed Father or Mother. But ſo it was from the Beginning; for a Murderer was preferred before the Prince of Life.

I was put Priſoner juſt as the Church began, and I ſent a Man to tell my Brother that the Word of God was fulfilled.—*Behold, the Devil ſhall caſt ſome of you into Priſon, that ye may be tried;* and deſired their Prayers that I might be faithful unto Death.——As ſoon as I was within the Priſon, my Heart was filled with Joy unſpeakable, and my Mouth with Praiſe to my dear Redeemer. This alſo ſhall turn to the Glory of God; for ſeveral Men of good Report heard me this Morning, and teſtified that I had ſpoke the Truth; and they would not (they ſaid) be guilty of ſending that Man to Priſon for Preaching for all the World. This cauſed many to come to me, who offered me Wine and ſtrong Drink. I told them I did not care for any Sort of ſtrong Liquor; but ſuch as I had, gave I unto them; ſome little Books, and the Words of God, which he gave me plentifully to ſpeak to them, without Reſpect of any Man's Perſon.

Two Nights and near three Days, I was kept Priſoner at this Time; during which, my Soul was as a watered Garden; and I could ſing Praiſes to God all the Day long, for he turned my Captivity into Joy; and gave me to reſt as well on the Boards as if I had been on a Bed of Down. Now could I ſay, God's Service is perfect Freedom, and I was carried out much in Prayer, that my Enemies might drink of the ſame River of Peace, which my God gave ſo largely to me.

Now did I more plainly ſee the dreadful State of the Unconverted than ever before; and thought, if it might be the Converſion of my Enemies, I could be conten that they ſhould tread me under their Feet. But GOD only knows how it would have been, had I been ſo tried: Yet thus far he hath helped me, and given me Strength for my Day. Indeed I have found him a GOD of Truth, as far as I have tried him; and I put forth the Hand of my Faith, to lay hold of his Strength for what he ſhall next call me to.

ON Tueſday I was fetched out, and brought before the Major. There were ſeveral of the young Officers with him, who ſmiled when I came into the Room; for they had been ſeveral Times to ee me in Priſon, and had ſwore I ſhould be ſeverely whipt. But I told them, If they did not repent, and leave off that Swearing, they would periſh eternally. And I ſhall be Witneſs againſt you, and that will be worſe than your whipping me for CHRIST's Sake.

Now they ſeemed to rejoice, as if their Words were going to be fulfilled. The Major called, *John Nelſon*, What was you put in Priſon for? "For warning the People to flee from the Wrath to come, I anſwered; and if this be a Crime, I ſhall commit it again, unleſs you cut my Tongue out: For it is better for me to die than diſobey GOD." Well, but if that be all, he replied, That is no Crime: For when you have done your Duty, I do not care if you preach every Night in an Houſe, or any private Place out of the Town; but I would not have you make any Mobs." That, ſaid I, is far from my Deſign. "Well, ſaid he, You may go Home to your Quar-

ters, and if I have a convenient Time, I will ſend for you, and hear you myſelf; for I wiſh all Men were like you." Here my Adverſaries hung down their Heads, and gave off Smiling.

As I went to Siſter *Townſhend*'s, I heard that we were to leave *York* on Thurſday at Four in the Morning, and march to *Sunderland*. I had a great Deſire to ſee my Wife firſt; but ſhe did not get my Letter ſoon enough. Many of the People came and ſaid, "We are ſorry you are going ſo ſoon from *York*; but if you get your Liberty, we hope both you and Mr. *Weſley* will come: For we have Need of ſuch plain Dealing, and Thouſands in this City would be glad to hear.—You ſee what a populous wicked Place it is: Pray do not forget us, but think of us when you ſee us not. We expected ſome of you two or three Years ago; but you had no Regard for our Souls, till God brought you by Force. Surely you was not ſold hither, but ſent for our Good; therefore forget us not."

O the Tenderneſs which this People ſhewed, and Deſire for the Word of God! It moved me to cry out, Lord have Mercy on them, and let them hear thy Goſpel, and find it thy Power unto Salvation; for why ſhould thy People periſh for Lack of Knowledge?

On Thurſday Morning we ſtood two Hours in the Streets before we ſet out of Town. We marched to *Eſingwald* that Day, and when we were drawn up in the Street, the People perceived me to be the *Methodiſt* Preacher they had read of in the News-Papers. They told one another, and flocked about me, as if the Soldiers had brought a Monſter into the Town.

When we had ſtaid near an Hour in the Street, I and five more were balloted at one Houſe, where the People were ſo poor, they had not ſix Seats for us to ſit on, nor any Beds; ſo we came back to the Officers Quarters, and they ordered four of us to another Houſe.

God gave me to ſpeak plainly to them, and ſeveral of their Neighbours, who came to ſee the *Methodiſt*. And then they ſaid, If this be the *Methodiſt* Doctrine, we pray God we may have it preached in this Town, for Hundreds would be glad to hear you.

In the Evening the Head-Man of the Town came in. He is a profeſt Papiſt, but a moral honeſt Man, and one who bears a good Character in his Neighbourhood. He aſked me many Queſtions, and God gave me to anſwer him to his Satisfaction. Indeed I never ſaw a Man of his Rank ſo teachable and humble: His Gold-Lace did not make him above liſtening to the Goſpel; he ſeemed a Man of ſound Reaſon, as well as liberal Education. I ſpake near an Hour, to prove the Doctrine of Juſtification by Faith; and that both from the Old and New Teſtaments: I ſhewed the Truth of that juſtifying Faith, and the Neceſſity of every Man's having it, that he may eſcape the Damnation of Hell. The Word had ſuch Effect upon him, that his Eyes diſcovered the Tenderneſs of his Heart; and, when I had ended, he ſaid, I think no Man in his Senſes would dare to hinder you from inſtructing Sinners in the Way of Salvation: As for my Part, I ſhall be glad to ſee you at Liberty; and if you get clear of theſe Men, and come again this Way, I would have you call on me.

I was amazed to find such a Man among the Papists, having met very few, either Teachers or Hearers of our own Church, but what hold the *Papist* Principles ten Times stronger than this Man, who calls himself a *Papist*. When he went away, he forced Two Shillings into my Hand, which I would have returned, telling him I received no Money, and needed none; but he would not take it again, saying he could afford it, and I might have Occasion for it on my Journey. O God, be merciful to him that gives a Cup of cold Water to thy Servants.

Next Morning at Two, the Drum beat for us to march out of Town. By Eleven on Friday, we got to *Northallerton*; and by Twelve, settled in Quarters.—I went into the Market-place, and spake to those I found there, of the Way of Salvation; I hope not in vain. Afterwards as I was sitting alone, there came a Shopkeeper, and said, "If I would go to his House, he would give me a Glass of any Liquor I pleased to drink:" I told him I did not drink any strong Liquor: "Well, but, said he, I desire your Company, if you please, for half an Hour." I went to his House, and drank Tea with him and his Family, and spake plainly to them: They received my Exhortation with Thankfulness, and said, "We have heard much of you, but never heard any of you before: Several of you have passed through this Town; and we wonder they have never preached here. If you come again, we hope you will call and see us." I gave them a Book, and returned to my Quarters.

Next Morning at One, the Drum beat for us to march, and we got to *Darlington* by Nine. Here I was known

to ſeveral; and, by them, made known to almoſt all the Town. Many came to my Quarters to talk with me; and others ſent for me. Whence the Famine in our Land? I find the People hunger after the Word, as if there were no Bibles in the Nation.

We reſted here on Sunday, and I had many to ſee me. When they heard what our Doctrine was, they cried, It is a Shame to ſend a Man for a Soldier for ſpeaking the Truth; for let all Men ſay what they will, this is the Goſpel of Jesus Christ.

In the Evening, one of the Officers came to me, and ſaid, "Well, Sir, Why was you not at Church To-day?" I anſwered, "I was, Sir, and if you had been there you might have ſeen me; for I never miſs going, when I have an Opportunity." "Well, Sir, he added, have you preached ſince you came hither? Not publickly yet, I replied." He ſwore he wiſhed I would, that he might puniſh me ſeverely. But, Sir, (I told him) If you don't repent, and leave off that Habit of Swearing, you will be worſe puniſhed than you are able to puniſh me. He ſaid, "I will make you mind your Firelock, and leave off your Preaching." Yes, Sir, I anſwered, When I leave off Speaking.

This was he that put me in Priſon at *York* for Preaching. As *Saul* hunted *David*, ſo has this Man hunted my Soul; but I truſt the ſame God that delivered *David* will deliver me from cruel Men.

He called for one of the Soldiers, and took the Cockade out of his Hat, putting it in mine, and ſwore he would make me wear it: This cauſed a ſore Temptation

to ariſe in me, to think that an ignorant wicked Man ſhould thus torment me in the Street and Priſon, and I was able to tie his Head and Heels together. I found an old Man's Bone in me; but the LORD lifted up a Standard when Anger was coming in like a Flood, elſe I ſhould have wrung his Neck to the Ground, and ſet my Foot upon him; which would have brought a Reproach upon the Goſpel, and wounded my own Soul: But, O! GOD is good to me, for he ſhewed me my Danger, and delivered me from it in a Moment: Then could I look on him with Pity, and pray for him from the Ground of my Heart.

I GAVE ſeveral Books away in this Town alſo; which we left the next Morning.

I WAS much ſurprized at the Good-nature of the Soldiers in all this March, for I believe Twenty offered to carry the Gun for me, or any Thing elſe I had. GOD, I found, ſupported me wonderfully in all theſe Trials; for I could travel fifteen or twenty Miles faſting, as well as thoſe who ate and drank two or three Times by the Way. Surely Man doth not live by Bread alone; but the LORD is the Strength of *Iſrael*; the Defender of all them that put their Truſt in him. O GOD, be thou my Guide unto Death.

WE got to *Durham* by Nine on Monday; but, in our Way to *Darlington*, we had a River to croſs, and were obliged to wade through it. The Day was very hot; ſo that I had ſweat much, and caught Cold immediately. I found myſelf much out of Order, when we got to *Durham*, and deſired I might lay down a little. Corporal *W*—— lay down with me, and fell aſleep. At Twelve

I awoke ſuddenly, as if ſome Man had called me, and ſaid to the Corporal, I muſt go to the Market-place directly, for what I know not, neither which Way to go to it. Nor I, he ſaid; but I will go with you, and we can enquire the Way. Accordingly we did: And juſt as we got thither, my Brother *Weſtell* was enquiring for me among the Soldiers. "Well, ſaid Mr. *W*——, I did never ſee ſuch a Thing in all my Life, that you ſhould thus awake, and come to meet your Friend the Minute he came to ſeek for you.

We were much comforted together: He told me that Mr. *John Weſley* would be at *Durham* ſoon after Four o'Clock. I gave God Thanks for that News. We went to a Common about a Mile from the Town, and there we met Mr. *W*——. My Heart rejoiced to ſee him; and great Reaſon have I to give God Thanks that I ever ſaw him, who was an Inſtrument in God's Hands of plucking me as a Brand out of the Fire.—And I have found him God's Meſſenger for my Good ever ſince.

We came to the Sign of the *Angel*, and had ſome Converſation together. He exhorted me to watch and pray; and did not doubt but my Captivity would turn to the Glory of God, and Furtherance of the Goſpel. At Six I went to anſwer my Call, and Mr. *W*—— went into the Minſter.

Afterwards I and *Thomas Beard*, my fellow Priſoner, met Mr. *W*—— and our Brother *Errington*, and went with them to the Inn, and ſtaid till Nine. Mr. *Weſley* ſaid, "Brother *Nelſon*, loſe no Time; ſpeak and ſpare not, for God hath Work for you to do in every Place where your Lot is caſt; and when you have fulfilled his good

Pleaſure, he will break your Bonds in ſunder, and we ſhall rejoice together." When we had prayed together, we commended each other to the Grace of GOD, and ſo parted in Body, not in Spirit.

NEXT Morning the Drum beat at One, and we were called up in the Market-Place, and cauſed to ſtand till Three, and then marched off for *Sunderland*, which we reached by Nine. When we were brought up in the Town, I heard ſeveral of the Inhabitants ſay, one to another, "That is the *Methodiſt* mentioned in the News-Papers; for his Look is not like other Mens." O my GOD, why am I, and my Fellows, become Men that are wondered at.

WHILE we ſtood, a Landlord came to us, and ſaid, Sir, I wiſh you would quarter at my Houſe; for I expect two, and ſhall be glad to have you for one, and whom you chuſe for a Comrade. I choſe Corporal *W*——, and aſked for a Billet as the Man deſired, but could not get it: Yet I believe we got the beſt Quarters we could have in *Sunderland*. Thus I ſee, if we acknowledge GOD in all our Ways, he will direct our Paths.

WHEN I went to Exerciſe, many came to ſee me, and I fell into Diſcourſe with them, but could get no Hold of them; for they aſſented and conſented to all I ſaid; and were ſo full of what the World calls Good-Manners, that all I ſpake was as written on the Sand, though I talked with them ſeveral Days: Yet ſome, I truſt, will be mindful of their everlaſting Welfare.

ON Saturday Night I was ordered to ſtand Centry on the Sunday following, but I deſired I might ſtand another Day, or pay for my Guard. I believe ten Men

offered to ſtand for me, but all in vain; for the Enſign, who had ſhewed Hatred againſt me all along, was the Officer of the Guard that Day; and he proteſted he would make me do it myſelf. I aſked, Sir, What have I done, that I cannot have the ſame Liberty as another Man? He anſwered, You love the Church too well; and I will keep you from it, and make them go who do not like to go. Keep me, O my God, from all Anger or Ill-Will; for this Man is ſet to prove me. I went to the Guard-Houſe, and many came to talk with me; but I did not ſtand Centry, till Six on Monday Morning. The Enſign's ſaying in the open Street, I ſhould not go to Church, becauſe I loved it, drew many of the People to me; and will turn, I am perſuaded, to the Furtherance of the Goſpel.

The Week after Mr. *M*—— came. He had heard what the Enſign had done, and came to me, and aſked me how I did; and ſaid, I am informed Mr. *A*—— hindered you from going to Church; but I will aſſure you, you ſhall not be hindered again as long as you are with us.

I have found ſomething of Good in this Man ever ſince I knew him. He will hear Reaſon, and ſeems to make a Conſcience both of his Words and Actions.

I was near an Hour in his Chamber, and he aſked me of the principal Points of our Doctrine. I made them as plain to him as I could, and he heard me with great Candour, and ſaid he had no Fault at all to find with it. He told me, The firſt Time that ever I ſaw you, I ſaw you was no Vagrant; but it would be a Scandal to all who were concerned in ſending or receiving ſuch an one;

for the Act of Parliament does not reach ſuch as you: But the reſt of the Officers ſaid they could not help it, for you was delivered to us as a Soldier by the J—s, and they are the Rogues. No, Sir, I anſwered, The J—s are in no Fault, for I was never before one of them yet. He ſaid, "Who ſent you then?" I replied, "The Commiſſioners." What Evidence had they againſt you? The Accuſation againſt me was, "He preaches to the People, by the Conſtable's Deputy: and he alſo confeſſed that he knew no other Evil of me." Well, but the Act of Toleration clears you from that's being a Crime: What, Had you no Man to ſpeak for you? Yes, Several were ready, but none were ſuffered to do it; neither were the Papers regarded, which my honeſt Neighbours and Gentlemen ſent on my Behalf; for one of the Commiſſioners was the Parſon of our Pariſh, and he was the Evidence againſt me, and they ſaid, They would hear no other.

Nay, ſaid Mr. *M*——, it is no Wonder they treated you ſo, if the Prieſt was concerned; for they have been at the Head of all the Perſecutions for Religion which have been ſince the World began. I ſee them ſo wicked, that I do not mind Religion at all. But this is my Religion: I believe there is one God, and that Christ his Son died for the World; I ſtrive to do honeſtly to all Men; and to do a good Turn to the meaneſt, if I can: And I think my Religion is better than theirs, who preach one Thing and do another; for I have ſeen ſo much of them, that I will aſſure you, I would hear you as ſoon as any in the Land.

He ſaid, he could like to read ſome of our Books; and I made him a Preſent of *An earneſt Appeal*, the *Character of*

a Methodiſt, and the Sermon *Awake thou that ſleepeſt*. He has ſince told me, that he has read, and likes them well.

THIS Day he procured me a Furlow to go to *Newcaſtle* for ſeven Days; and I found I did not go up without the LORD; for my Soul, and thoſe of the People, were refreſhed with the Love of GOD: Several of the Soldiers came to hear me preach, and gave great Attention to the Things which were ſpoken. I found great Freedom to ſpeak to the Children, whom GOD has called out of the evil World, to ſerve him in this Place. Watch over them, O my GOD, for Good, and be thou their Guide unto Death.

ON Tueſday my Time was out to go back. I preached at *Painſhee* in the Afternoon, to an attentive Congregation, and got to *Sunderland* by Seven at Night. This Week I received a Letter from Mr. *C. W.* that the *E.* of *S.* had aſſured the *L. H.* that I ſhould be ſet at Liberty in a few Days. I ſaid, "The LORD hath not forgotten to be gracious, for he hath taken my Cauſe in Hand, and it ſhall turn to his Glory; for he alone hath done the Work, when all human Means had ſeemed to fail. My Enemies cried, We have made his Bonds ſtrong, and none can deliver him out of our Snare; for we have put it out of the Officer's Power to diſcharge him for any Price. LORD, I beſeech thee, open their Eyes, and let them ſee the Snare, which Satan hath laid for their Souls, and eſcape by ſpeedy Repentance, and Faith in thy Blood.

THIS Week I was much out of Health by the Surfeit I got in Marching; but found preſent Eaſe by being

blooded. The Week following I was ſent for by the Captain to the Store-Houſe; and he inſiſted on my going, though I was ſo ill. When I came there, he and three more Officers came and aſked me how I did. I told them; and they ſaid, Here is a good Coat for you to keep you from Cold, that you may recover your Health. I ſaid, "I have Coats enough, if that would do, I need none of yours. They ſaid, They would make me wear it, and all the other Cloathing belonging to a Soldier. I anſwered, "You may array me as a Man of War, but I ſhall never fight." They aſked, what is your Reaſon? My Anſwer was, "I cannot ſee any Thing in this World worth fighting for.—I want neither its Riches nor Honours, but the Honour that cometh from GOD only: I regard neither its Smiles nor its Frowns; and have no Buſineſs in it but to get well out of it.

THEN they ordered the Serjeant to pull off my Coat, and put a Red one on me: When he had done it, they turn'd me round, and rejoiced over me. I ſaid, "You ſee the Scripture cannot be broken, where it ſaith, *If they do this in the green Tree, What will they do in the dry.* What do you mean by that, they aſked? I anſwered, *The Soldiers took JESUS, and ſtripped him, and put a Scarlet Robe upon him, and mocked him*, as you have treated me, his Servant, this Day, for ſpeaking his Words. He indeed hath the greater Condemnation, who delivered me into your Hands: But I pray GOD forgive you all. Theſe Words turned their Countenance and Behaviour towards me, and one of them laboured from that Time to find ſome Way for me to be ſet at Liberty.

DURING my threeWeeks Illneſs, many of the Brethren and Siſters from *Newcaſtle*, *Biddick*, and *Painſhee*, came to

ſee me, and God was pleaſed at that Time to give ſome the Knowledge of Salvation by the Remiſſion of their Sins; and to comfort all our Hearts with his Love. O may we ever keep his Commandments, that we may continue in his Love even as he hath kept his Father's Commandments, and continued in his Love.

On Friday, *July* 27, *John Graham*, of *Sunderland*, came to me with an open Letter in his Hand, and ſaid, "Come, my Friend, I have good News for thee, God hath heard the Prayers of his People in thy Behalf, and ſent thee Deliverance: Here, read this Letter, which the Major hath ſent to the Captain on thy Account:" It was on this Wiſe, "I have received an Order from the Earl of *S.* to diſcharge *John Nelſon*, who was preſt from *Birſtal* in the Weſt-Riding of *Yorkſhire*; Therefore take his Arms and Cloathing from him which he has received, and let me know if he has had any Pay ſince he came, and ſend him to me with a Furlow." Accordingly I delivered all Things I had belonging to them, to Lieut. *M.* who ſaid, He was glad that I was to be releaſed, and wiſhed me well whereſoever I went; I had a Furlow given me, and ſet out in the Afternoon with ſome that were come from *Newcaſtle* to ſee me; and got there by Seven.

All the Society gave God Thanks on my Behalf, as ſoon as they ſaw me; for they had Knowledge of my Deliverance before I had. Next Morning I went to the Major's Quarters about Nine: When I had waited about an Hour, I was ordered to come at Half an Hour paſt Eleven; I did ſo, and waited another Hour: Then the Major called to me, and bid me come at half an Hour

after Two, and he would ſpeak to me: I came again as he ordered me, and when I had ſtaid near an Hour, one of the Captains called me, and ſaid, The Major is gone to dine with the Mayor of the Town, and you will hardly ſee him To-night; but you will be ſure to find him To-morrow Morning. I told him, That would not do for me; for my Buſineſs was not to be done on the Sabbath.

Near Six in the Evening, I ſaw the Major go along the Street, and followed him to his Lodgings: He ſaid, I have an Order from the Lord *S*—— to diſcharge you. He ſent for the Adjutant, and ordered him to bring two printed Diſcharges with him. He came, and three more of the Officers with him, and filled up the Diſcharge: When he had done, he ſaid, I wiſh all the Men in our Regiment would behave as well as Mr. *Nelſon* has done ſince he has been among us, it would be better for us and them too. Then our Lieutenant ſaid, Indeed he has done much Good ſince he came among us; for we have not One-third of the Curſing and Swearing in the Regiment, which we had before he came: And he has given me ſeveral private Exhortations, and ſome of their Books; and I thank him for them, and his Advice, for it is good. Then the Major ſaid, "I wiſh I had a Regiment of ſuch Men as he is in all Reſpects, ſave that one, his refuſing to fight; I would not care what Enemy I had to meet, or where my Lot was caſt.—Sir, if you fear God, I ſaid, You have no Need to fear any Thing elſe: For they that fear him depart from Evil, and ſeek to do his Will, and not their own; They know that in his Hands are the Iſſues of Life and Death; therefore they fear not him that can kill the Body only, but him that can de-

ſtroy both Soul and Body in Hell. And every one that has this Fear is truly wiſe; but he that dares commit Sin, his Wiſdom is the Fooliſhneſs of Folly; for he is pulling Deſtruction on his own Head, and fitting himſelf for the Fuel of Hell Fire. But he that is wiſe unto Salvation is bold as a Lion, and is more noble than to contend for the Honour, which cometh of Men: For having Bread to eat, and Raiment to put on, he knows that is all this World can afford him. He pities the great ones of the Earth, who feed on Huſks, and can be content with the empty Title of Right Honourable; while, by Sin, they debaſe themſelves even down to Hell: But by theſe Things the God of this World blinds their Eyes, ſo that very few of them ſee the Way to Heaven, as it is pointed out in the Word of God.

Well, ſaid the Major, If you are ſo ſcrupulous about Fighting, what muſt we do? I anſwered, "It is your Trade, and if you had a better it might be better for you:" But Somebody, he replied, muſt fight. I ſaid, "If all Men lived by Faith in the Son of God, Wars would be at an End." That is true, he anſwered, "If it was ſo, we ſhould learn War no more."

But there is one Thing I deſire to know of you; tell me, Do you make your Sermons ready before you go to preach, or do you ſpeak off Hand? "I do not ſtudy what to ſay, but ſpeak as the Spirit of God enables me." Well, ſaid he, I cannot tell what you mean by the Spirit of God. "The more is the Pity, I anſwered, That you ſhould have lived ſo long in the World, and and know Nothing of God yet: For we do not know

God, but by his own Spirit given unto us; and till we have received that Spirit, we are without God in the World: and no Man can have this Gift and not know it; for thus ſaith the Lord Jesus, *At that Day ye ſhall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you:* So if God be true, we muſt know that Christ is in us, or we are none of his: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God: But if any Man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his; he is no Chriſtian, no more than a *Turk* or a *Pagan* is, unleſs he has the ſame Spirit, which raiſed Christ from the Dead, to raiſe him in this World from the Death of Sin."

Here one of the Captains ſpake, You ſaid one Day, If we have not the Spirit of God, we are dead while we live. Did I ſo? "Yes you did:" Then I will prove it; both from the Doctrine of the Church of *England*, (of which I profeſs myſelf a Member) and from the Word of God. God gave me to ſpeak plainly from both for about twenty Minutes; none contradicting me, but they ſtood as dumb Men.

Then the Major ſaid, Here is ſuch a Diſcharge for you, as I never gave before, but once; and put it into my Hand: I told them, "I have now delivered my own Soul, and am pure from the Blood of you all; for I have not ſpared either Poor or Rich, ſince I came among you, but have ſet Life and Death before you all, as you came in my Way. I have declared unto you, that the Wicked ſhall be turned into Hell, and all the People that forget God; and, contrariwiſe, the bleſſed State of them that repent, and obey the Goſpel of Christ

our Saviour: And I pray God give you all to underſtand the Things which make for your everlaſting Peace, and bleſs you in turning every one of you from your Iniquities: Then ſhall we meet another Day to part no more." The Major ſaid, I wiſh you well wherever you go; for I believe you *Methodiſts* are well-meaning People; and ſo ſaid they all. I gave them a Book, and took my Leave of them.

I WENT to the Room, and preached that Night, and had ſeveral of the Soldiers to hear me, who gave great Attention to what I ſaid: Then I took my Leave of them; and ſome of them wept, and deſired me to pray for them, and ſaid, We are glad you are ſet at Liberty, but ſorry to part with you. I commended them to GOD, and to the Word of his Grace, and truſt they will mind the Exhortation, and become good Soldiers of JESUS CHRIST.

ON the 28th Day of *July*, I was ſet at Liberty to go whereſoever I thought was moſt to GOD's Glory, who has delivered me from my Bonds: For he hath done the Work, and to him the Glory is due. What am I, that he ſhould care for me! But he is a GOD that heareth Prayer; and the Cries of his People inclined him to take my Cauſe in Hand.—Praiſe the LORD, O my Soul, who hath kept thee in all thy Trials, and hath not ſuffered thee to faint in ſore Temptation.

NOW I find the Words true which Mr. *John Weſley* firſt ſent me at *York*: "Well, my Brother, Is the GOD whom you ſerve, able to deliver you, and do you find him faithful to his Word? Is his Grace ſtill ſufficient for you? I doubt it not: He will not ſuffer you to be weary

or faint in your Mind. But he had Work for you to do which you knew not of, and thus his Counſel was to be fulfilled! O loſe no Time! Who knows how many Souls God may by this Means deliver into your Hands. Shall not all theſe Things be for the Furtherance of the Goſpel? And is not the Time coming when we ſhall cry out together? "Nay, In all theſe Things we are more than Conquerors, through him that loved us."

On the 29th of *July*, 1744, the Day after I was releaſed from my Captivity, I preached at the Room in *Newcaſtle*; and the Power of the Lord was preſent, and ſeveral were converted that Week; and my own Soul was much refreſhed amongſt them.

The Week after I ſet out for Home; and Brother *Tinkler* aſſiſted me with a Horſe as far as *Ferry-Hill*, where we commended each other to the Grace of God, and I ſet out on Foot.

The Day after I met Brother *Aſh*, and two more, near *Boroughbridge*, coming to meet me with my Mare. We ſtopped, and ſang Praiſe together unto God, who had broken *my* Bonds, and preſerved *them* in many Dangers.

It was given out for me to preach at *Leeds* that Night; and I preached in an open Yard, to a large Company of Rich and Poor, that did not attend our Preaching, before I was ſent for a Soldier: Thus we ſee, that what the Enemies of the Lord Jesus do to hinder his Goſpel, helps to enlarge his Kingdom. So it is, that he turns the Fierceneſs of Men to his Praiſe, and the Remainder of it he reſtrains; for not one in *Leeds* opened his Mouth

againſt me, but Hundreds ſaid they were glad to ſee me at Liberty again.

When I got Home, I found my Wife and Children well, and we praiſed God together. But when I came to converſe with the People, my Soul was diſtreſſed within me, for thoſe that had ſhewed great Love before I went, by their Behaviour and Countenance, now ſeemed to wiſh I had not come back; for Mr. *Viney*, who had been with the *Moravians*, had got among them in my Abſence, and had preached to them another Goſpel. They now told me, they did not want the Law, or work Preaching any more, but that they wanted to be fed; and that neither Mr. *Weſley* nor I knew how to build up Souls as well as Mr. *Viney* did. But I found, they were built up in an unholy Faith; for they ſaid, to tell People, that they muſt be holy in this World was Mr. *Weſley*'s *Error* and mine, and we kept Souls in Bondage by preaching as we did: Some of them, indeed, ſhewed their Liberty, by trampling under Foot the Law of God and Man.

When I ſaw ſuch Havock made among the Flock, by his ſoft Words and fair Speeches, my Soul was deſtroyed within me, ſo that I could not eat my Bread. I threw myſelf on the Ground, and requeſted for Death, ſaying, Lord, why haſt thou ſuffered me to come back, to ſee this Evil.

When I preached, many ſtood like Stocks or Stones, and others ſmiled at one another; ſo that my Preaching was like a Feather thrown againſt a Rock, or as Water ſpilt upon the Ground, except to a few Strangers, who

were affected. I ſaid, "Woe is me! For my Children fly from me, as if I had brought the Plague among them."

I HUMBLED myſelf before GOD, and begged for Light, that I might know his Will; and I opened the Book on theſe Words, *Bring forth therefore Fruits meet for Repentance: and think not to ſay within yourſelves, we have Abraham to our Father, for I ſay unto you, that GOD is able of theſe Stones to raiſe up Children unto Abraham: And now alſo the Ax is laid unto the Root of the Tree; therefore every Tree, which bringeth not forth good Fruit, is hewn down and caſt into the Fire.* I went out and ſtood upon a Table, and preached from theſe Words to a large Congregation, who ſeemed to be as a People that had never heard the Goſpel before, and there began to be a Trembling amongſt them, when many fell to the Ground, and cried out, "LORD ſave or I periſh!" Many came to me weeping, and ſaid, We have been deluded by the *German Song:* O pray for us, that GOD may give us back that tender Conſcience which we have loſt ſince you left us. Then Mr. *Viney* went out of the Congregation, hanging down his Head, and owned us no more; but my Soul was revived again, for Sinners were converted, and others reſtored to the Simplicity of the Goſpel, who had been wiſe above what is written, but ſome continue to this Day in their *happy Sinnerſhip.* I met with one of them the other Day ſo drunk that he could not keep the Cart-Road. I aſked him, What he thought of himſelf now, If Death was to ſeize him in that wretched Condition? He ſaid, That he was not afraid to die, for he was as his Saviour would have him to be; and if he would have him to be holy, he would make him ſo, but he was a *poor Sinner,* and he hoped to be ſo to Eternity.—He ſaid, "You and *John Weſley* are Enemies to the Lamb; for you want People to be holy

here: But the Lamb ſhall have the Honour of ſaving me: I will not offer to ſave myſelf, like you *Phariſees.*" I cried out, "LORD Keep me from that Deluſion."

AFTER ſome Time, I went to *York*; and found the Seed ſown in my Captivity had ſprung up, for Nineteen had found Peace with GOD, and twice as many were under Convictions, though they had no one to inſtruct them in my Abſence: But the little Books I left them, *viz.* the Sermon, on Awake thou that Sleepeſt, and Salvation by Faith, and the Extract from the Homilies, and the Nature and Deſign of Chriſtianity, had been of great Uſe to them. O, What Good might be done, if theſe Books were ſpread through the Land!

SOON after, Mr. *Weſley* ſent for me to *London*, and I found my Soul bleſſed, in ſpeaking to the People; and many came to hear out of Curioſity, when they heard it was the Man that had been in Priſon; and ſeveral were convinced of the Truth they heard.

WHEN I was at *London*, I received a Letter from *Sunderland*, wherein I was deſired to go to preach there. Two Men that had converſed with me, when I was a Captive there, had found the LORD; and they ſaid, That their Souls panted for the Salvation of their Neighbours. So I ſee GOD leads the Blind, by a Way that they know not; for I thought all that I had ſaid there, was as Water ſpilt on the Ground: But the LORD confirms his own Word, when we ſee little outward Appearance of it. O how wonderful are thy Works, O LORD! What a great Fire is kindled by a little Spark in that Place. Now, I ſee, that the wiſe Man's Advice is

good: Where, he ſaith, "Sow thy Seed in the Morning; and in the Evening with-hold not thy Hand; for thou knoweſt not which ſhall proſper."

In my Return from *London*, I preached at *Noting-Croſs*, to a large Congregation; moſt of them behaved very well, except a few who had prepared Squibs, to throw in my Face; but three of them were burnt with the Fire that they intended for me, and went away, and left me to finiſh my Diſcourſe quietly. When I had done, there came a Serjeant to the Croſs to me, and fell down on his Knees, and ſaid, "For the Lord's Sake pray for me; for I came on Purpoſe to pull you down; but the Dread of God fell on me, (when I ſaw thoſe burnt with the Squibs that they intended to throw in your Face), and your Words came as a Sword to my Heart; and I am convinced that you are God's Servants: I never ſerved either God or my King as I ought to do; but I hope I ſhall begin to lead a new Life from this Hour." This being in the Preſence of all the People, it ſeemed to ſeaſon what I had ſaid to them. As I was preaching, *Stephen Dickſon*, and two more Preachers, came and ſtood a While: They then ſpoke aloud, and ſaid, Why hear ye him; for he is as legal and blind as the two *Weſleys* themſelves.

When I got Home, I found the People in a proſperous Way; and the greateſt Part of them quite delivered from the *Antinomian* Principles, that they had got into in my Captivity; and the Lord had increaſed them in Grace and Number; to him be the Glory given.

Soon after, I went to *Newcaſtle*, and laboured there about three Months, and had an Opportunity to viſit them

at *Sunderland*. I preached upon the Croſs to the greateſt Part of the Town, who behaved well, and ſtood all the Time, though the Snow was eight or nine Inches deep. I went there as often as I could; and GOD viſited many with his Salvation there, at *Painſhee*, and *Biddick*, who bleſſed GOD that I had been ſent among them. They ſaid, That they would pray for our Miniſter, who was the Cauſe of my coming; for they were more beholden to him, than to me; and let him intend what he would, they had Reaſon to bleſs GOD in his Behalf. So it is evident, GOD hath his Way in the Whirlwind, and his Path in the great Waters.

IN my Return to *Leeds*, I found that the LORD had greatly bleſſed the Labour of *Jonathan Reeves*, and *John Bennett*; ſeveral being converted by their Preaching, both there and at *Birſtal*.

I WAS afterwards ordered to *Briſtol*. In my Way, I called at *Nottingham*; and as I was preaching a Mob came into the Houſe, and made a Noiſe, as if they had been in a Cock-Pit, ſo that my Voice could not be heard for ſome Time. When they were ſilent I began to ſpeak, and one of them came behind me, and filled my Mouth with Dirt out of the Channel. I think I never felt myſelf ſo near being choaked in my Life; but when I had got the Dirt out, I ſpoke again. The Ringleader of them turned about, and ſaid, "Let him alone, for he is right and we are wrong; and if any one of you touch him, I will knock him down." He guarded me to my Lodgings, and bore many Blows for me: He deſired me to pray for him, that he might not reſt till he had found Peace

with God, for he was ſure he fought againſt the Truth; but by Grace he would do ſo no more.

I found Peace at *Wedneſbury*; and ſeveral, who had been Perſecutors, were converted, and were content to bear the Reproach of the Goſpel. O, what a good God we have to deal with! It is plain, whoever turn at his Reproof he will pour out his Spirit upon them, and receive them into his Family, after all they have done to provoke him.

I found Peace at all the Places in my Way to *Briſtol:* and my Soul was refreſhed among the People, in that City. Here, and in Part of *Somerſetſhire*, and *Wiltſhire*, I ſpent four Months. Several were awakened at *Poulton*, *Colford*, *Oakley*, *Shepton-Mallett*, *Road*, and *Bearfield;* ſo God doth, and none can hinder: Tho' the Inſtruments be ever ſo weak; if he bid them, a Worm ſhall ſhake the Earth.

While I was in theſe Parts, the Rebels entered our Land; and many trembled for Fear of the approaching Calamities, that were expected at their Coming, and attended the Word and Prayer, though they uſed not to attend before: But after the Lord had put his Hook in the Rebels Jaws, and turned them back by the Way they came, many of them were as careleſs about their Souls as ever.

A little before I left *Briſtol*, I received a Letter from Mr. *Charles Weſley*, containing only the following Words, "My Brother, you muſt watch and pray, labour and ſuffer: My Spirit is with you: You will ſhortly be wanted in *Yorkſhire*. Farewell." Indeed God hath made him a true Prophet to me; for I ſee as much Need to watch

and pray as ever I did; and I believe I ſhall, as long as I am in this howling Wilderneſs; and to exert all my Strength, in labouring to perſuade Sinners to fly from the Wrath to come, for I ſee myſelf a Debtor to all Men.

I REMEMBER, about eight Months before I was preſt for a Soldier, Mr. *Charles Weſley* was preaching near my Houſe, in the open Street; and ſaid, in his Preaching, "Before I ſhall come to preach here again, the Devil will be permitted to caſt ſome of you into Priſon; but that ſhall turn to the Glory of GOD, and to the Furtherance of the Goſpel." I little thought then, that the Cloud would burſt on *my* Head; but when it did, his Words were a Support to me in my Trials.

WHEN I left *Briſtol*, I met with many Sufferings: At almoſt every Place where I came to preach, Mobs were raiſed, as if they were determined to kill me, and all GOD's Children, in a Kind of Thankſgiving, becauſe the Rebels were conquered. O what ſtupid Creatures are Men in their carnal State!

WHEN I got to *Nottingham*, I preached to a peaceable Congregation. About half an Hour after I had done, as I and four or five more were ſitting by the Fire, the Conſtable, with a Mob at his Heels, came ruſhing into the Houſe, and ſaid, Where is the Preacher? I ſaid, "I am he, Sir." He replied, "You muſt go with me before the Mayor." I ſaid, "Where is your Warrant?" He replied, "My Staff is my Warrant.—Come, Lads, help me; for I will make him go before the Mayor." I ſaid, "I am not afraid to go before him; but it is your Buſineſs to take up that Swearer: You hear, there is another that ſwears, and if you don't take them up, it is

in my Power to make you pay Forty Shillings, for not doing your Duty." He regarded not what I ſaid; but haled me away. When we were got almoſt to the Mayor's Houſe, a Gentleman-like Man ſaid, "Conſtable, Where are you going with him?" He ſaid, "To the Mayor." He replied, "Pray don't; for the Mayor is their Friend, and ſays he will put any one that diſturbs them into the Houſe of Correction: Therefore carry him before Alderman *H——l*, and he will do for him." "Then we muſt turn another Way, ſaid he." But I ſaid, "I inſiſt upon going before the Mayor." But he replied, "I will make you go where I pleaſe." I ſaid, "You told me you muſt carry me before the Mayor: I find you are a ſtrange Officer, to encourage Swearing, and tell Lies yourſelf." Then the Mob ſhouted, and cried, "Help us to guard the *Methodiſt* Preacher to the Houſe of Correction."

By that Time we got to the Alderman's Houſe, there were ſeveral Hundreds gathered together; and when we came there, he ſaid, "Whom have you brought, Conſtable:" To me, he ſaid, "I wonder you can't ſtay in your own Places; you might be convinced by this Time, that the Mob of *Nottingham* will never let you preach quietly in this Town." I replied, "I beg Pardon, Sir, I did not know before now, that this Town was governed by a Mob; for moſt ſuch Towns are governed by Magiſtrates:" He bluſhed, and ſaid, "Do you think that we will protect *Weſley*, and you, a Pack of you? No; I believe you are the Cauſe of all the Commotion that hath been in the Land." I replied, "Sir, Can you prove that one Man that is joined to us did aſſiſt the *Pretender*, with either Men, Money, or Arms?" He ſaid, "It hath

been obſerved, that there was always ſuch a preaching, bawling People, before any Judgment came upon the Land." I replied, "That is the Goodneſs of GOD towards the People, for ſending his Meſſengers to warn them to repent, that they may eſcape his Judgments here, and the Torments of the Damned hereafter.—Sir, You may as well ſay, that it was thro' *Jeremiah* that the *Caldeans* deſtroyed the Temple, and took the Inhabitants of *Jeruſalem* Captives; becauſe he told them, it would be ſo, if they did not repent, and turn to GOD. No, Sir, It is not for Praying and Preaching, that Evil comes on a Land, but for Swearing and Curſing, for Drunkenneſs and Debauchery, for oppreſſing the Poor, and loving Pleaſure more than GOD; and for denying the LORD that bought us. Theſe are the People that bring the Sword, Peſtilence, and Famine into the Land." The Conſtable ſaid, "Do you think we will take Warning by ſuch Fellows as you." I ſaid, "If you will not, you muſt feel the Blow; for, if there is not a Reformation in the Land, GOD will pour out his Judgments upon Man and Beaſt; therefore I warn you all to look unto the Rod, for it is appointed to them that diſobey the Goſpel." Then the Alderman ſaid, "So, ſo, You muſt not preach here: I verily believe you are a good Man." Then, ſaid he, "Conſtable, I will not ſend this Man to the Houſe of Correction: I think, as you keep a Public-Houſe, you may let him lie there To-night; for he is on his Journey." The Conſtable ſaid, "I beg that he may not be at my Houſe." Well then, ſaid he, "He may go to *Mary White's*, where he came from." I ſpoke a few more Words to him, and wiſhed him a good Night. He ſaid, "Mr. *Nelſon*, I wiſh you well, wherever you go."

When I had got into the Street, I don't know but there might be a Thouſand People; but I ſaw not one that I knew; therefore I went and ſtood under a Lamp that my Acquaintance might ſee me. The Alderman came to the Door, and ſaid to the Conſtable, "Take Care of Mr. *Nelſon*, that no one moleſt him; ſee him ſafe to *Mary White*'s."—The Conſtable ſeemed much aſhamed, and did as he was ordered. Then the Man that adviſed him to carry me before the Alderman, came to me, and ſaid, "Thy nimble Tongue hath delivered thee at this Time." I ſaid, "No, Sir, It is my God who hath the Hearts of all Men in his Hands."

When we got to *Mary White*'s, we ſung an Hymn, and gave Praiſe to God, and prayed for our Enemies, and recommended each other to God's Care and Protection; and we had a comfortable Meeting at Five the next Morning.

When I got Home, I found all things in a comfortable Way, and the Lord added many to the Number of his Children that Winter; and ſeveral died in the Triumph of Faith. *Wonderful art thou O LORD in all thy Works: And as thou art in Majeſty, ſo art thou in Mercy!*

One Day I happened to fall in Company with a Gentleman, that was called one of the chief Teachers in *Iſrael*, who began to ridicule Mr. *John Weſley*, and all that labour with him, ſaying, "They are a ſhort-ſighted ignorant ſet of People, neither are they willing to be inſtructed in the Truths of the Goſpel." I ſaid, "Sir, I am one of them, and I am open to Conviction; ſhew me our Error, and I hope by Grace to forſake it."—He ſaid,

"You all deny the Faith delivered to the Saints, in denying *Election and Reprobation.*" I ſaid, "I do not know that *that* is the Faith of the Goſpel: For the Apoſtle *Paul* ſaith, *It was not written for Abraham's Sake alone, that Faith was counted to him for Righteouſneſs, but for our Sakes, if we believe in him that raiſed our* LORD JESUS CHRIST *from the Dead, who was delivered for our Offences, and raiſed again for our Juſtification.* I think, therefore, that *this* is the Faith of the Goſpel, That I with my Heart believe that JESUS CHRIST died for my Sins, and roſe again for my Juſtification; that he died for me, that his Life might be made manifeſt in my mortal Fleſh, that I might not live to myſelf, but to him who died for me: And this Faith kindles a Flame of Love in the Heart of thoſe that receive it, to GOD and every Soul of Man; and I would not give a Straw for any Thing called Faith, ſhort of this. The ſame Apoſtle ſaith, That his Commiſſion to the People, and to the Gentiles, was to open their Eyes, and to turn them from Darkneſs to Light, and from the Power of Satan to GOD; that they might receive Forgiveneſs of Sins, and an Inheritance among them that are ſanctified, by Faith in JESUS CHRIST: But there is not one Word of *Reprobation* in his Commiſſion; and if any come to preach another Goſpel, let him be accurſed." He ſtormed at me, and called me a muddy-headed Creature ſeveral Times.—I ſaid, "My Head is muddy, or your Doctrine is unclean. If you clear GOD, and not make him a Liar, nor guilty of Perjury, nor the Author of all Sin, then I may think as you do.—He ſaid, "What do you mean?" I replied, "He hath ſaid ſeveral Times, that he is no *Reſpecter of Perſons*; but you

have given him the Lie many Times, ſince I came in your Company; and you have made him guilty of Perjury; for he ſwears by his own Life, that he hath *no Pleaſure in the Death of a Sinner.*—And you have affirmed, That it is GOD's Pleaſure to leave the greateſt Part of Mankind to an unmerciful Devil, to govern them here, and to torment them hereafter: Nay, you affirm, That it is his good Pleaſure, to damn Infants from their Mother's Womb.---O Sir! Beware what you ſay againſt the GOD of Love: For you have made him worſe than *Molock;* by your Words, that Man is as much doing the Will of GOD, that cuts his Father's Throat, and he that raviſheth his own Mother, as he that feedeth the Hungry, and cloatheth the Naked.—O, Sir! Is this the GOD, that was in CHRIST, reconciling the World to himſelf? No; He is loving to every Man, and his Mercy is over all his Works: And St. *John* ſaith, *He that loveth is born of GOD, and knoweth GOD; for God is Love.*"—Then he made a Noiſe like a Butcher in the Bear-Garden. When I could be heard, I ſaid, "Sir, If ever you preach again, I muſt look upon you either as a Fool or a Knave." He ſaid, "Why ſo." I replied, "You ſay the *Elect* were choſen from Eternity, and the reſt ſet a-part for Miſery; and that the Decree cannot be broken; and if you think one of the choſen can be loſt for Want of Preaching, or one of the Reprobates can be ſaved by your Preaching, you muſt be void of Reaſon, and ſomething worſe, if you believe the Thing is fixed, and that Preaching will aggravate the Torment of the Loſt, and that the greateſt Part of your Hearers are loſt, who help to maintain you as a Gentleman, only to encreaſe their Damnation. He looked at me with a ſtern Countenance, and ſaid, I was as bad as *Weſley* himſelf. I replied, "Sir, Why do you

find Fault? If what you ſay be true, GOD hath decreed me to think as I do; And how can I break the Decree?" He ſaid, "I hate to hear you talk ſo." Then I anſwered, "Do you want GOD to break his Decree?" Then he went away in a Rage.

ANOTHER Preacher, of the ſame Sort, heard of our Diſpute, and told me, He would put a Queſtion to me, that would drive me from inherent Righteouſneſs; *viz.* "If the White Raiment, that thoſe appeared in before the Throne in Heaven, was not the imputed Righteouſneſs of JESUS CHRIST?—I ſaid, "No, Sir." But, he argued, it was. I then ſaid, "It is almoſt Blaſphemy in my Opinion to ſay ſo." He ſaid; "What do yo mean?" I anſwered, "The Scripture ſaith, that *They came out of great Tribulation; and waſhed their Robes, and made them White in the Blood of the Lamb:* I never heard that his Life was ſtained by Sin; neither Man nor Devil could accuſe him thereof: His Righteouſneſs had no Need of Waſhing; it is Blaſphemy to ſay that it did; for Shame, go Home and read the Scriptures, and you will ſee, It is the Blood of JESUS CHRIST, that cleanſes from all Sin, but cloaks none: When a Soul appears in that Company, it is not like a Dunghill covered with Snow, but really pure, and is by the Power of JESUS CHRIST's Spirit, reſtored to the Image of GOD, in which it was at firſt created; and then, and not till then, can it enter in at the Gates of the *New Jeruſalem*, and join the Angels, and Archangels, and Spirits of juſt Men made perfect, to ſing an eternal Anthem to the *Great Three-one.*"——He ſaid, "You ſhall never make me think as *Weſley* and you do." I replied, "If you don't in this World, you will in the next; for

if you die defiled and unclean, you muſt be caſt into the Lake that burneth with Fire and Brimſtone; ſo you had better begin now yourſelf, and adviſe your Hearers to cry out, *Create in me a clean Heart; and renew a right Spirit within me, O LORD:* For none but the Pure in Heart can ſee GOD."——He ſaid, "He did not care what I could ſay, for his Salvation was compleated when CHRIST, hung on the Croſs." I replied, "Not ſo, for he did not repent for you; you muſt repent for yourſelf, or eternally periſh, after all he hath done and ſuffered for you and me; and if you do not believe, that he died for your Sins, and roſe again for your Juſtification: Nor was he riſen again when he hung on the Croſs, which yet was a neceſſary Part of the Work which he came to do; Nor was he born again for you, for you muſt be born again, or you can never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; and be as really made a Partaker of the Divine Nature, as you are a Partaker of the human Nature by common Generation, or you have no more Right to call GOD your Father, or Heaven your Inheritance, than I have to call K—g GE—GE my Father, and his Throne mine." He ſaid, "You are a ſtrange Set of People;" and left me. O, my GOD, Take the Matter into thy own Hand, and put a Stop to that *Antichriſtian Doctrine*, that is ſpreading as a Flood in our Land; and give the People to ſee the Truth as it is in JESUS; and create ſuch an Hungring and Thirſting after inward Holineſs, that they may pant as the Heart panteth after the Water-Brooks, till all that is in them be made Holineſs to the LORD.

I WAS in Hopes that I had done with that Sort of People, but a Third came to me ſoon after in a Rage, and ſaid, That I was an Enemy to the Goſpel. I aſked,

" Wherein, Sir?" He ſaid, " In ſaying that CHRIST died for all; and in denying imputed Righteouſneſs." I anſwered, " Faith in CHRIST is imputed for Righteouſneſs, to every Soul that believeth; and they are freely forgiven for his Sake, received into GOD's Favour and Family, and are made Partakers of that ſame Spirit, that raiſed our LORD from the Dead; whereby they are enabled to deny Ungodlineſs, and worldly Luſts, and to live a godly, righteous, and ſober Life, in this preſent evil World; and to perfect Holineſs in the Fear of GOD. In the Scripture Senſe theſe live not, but CHRIST liveth in them; and he doth actually deſtroy the Works of the Devil, and re-inſtamp the Image of GOD in the Soul; and I read of no other Qualification in my Bible to fit a Soul for God's Company." He ſaid, " You are ſtupid; and ſo are all they that follow *Weſley:* But I believe as I ſay, and ſo do many better Men then either he or you." I anſwered, " If you and all the Preachers in *England* were to believe ſo, I will not give you Credit, unleſs the Word of GOD *expreſsly* ſays, that CHRIST did *not* die for all; but it ſaith ſeveral Times, that he did die for *all,* but not once, that he did *not* die for *all:* And how you came to be wiſe above what is written, I know not; neither do I want ſuch Wiſdom." I added, " Tell me, Sir; did you ever feel the Love of GOD in your own Soul? If you did, I appeal to your own Conſcience, that at that Time you found Love to every Soul of Man: Now this was not your Nature, but the Nature of GOD; and if one Drop of the Bucket could ſo ſwell your Soul, what muſt that Ocean be from whence it came? But I cannot help thinking, that you of that Principle never knew GOD, or if you had known him, you have forgotten him; for you make him worſe than *Molock.*" He fell in a Rage with

me. I ſaid, "Be not angry with me, but rather be conſiſtent with yourſelf; and if I could believe as you do, I would not have ſo long troubled the People with Preaching; for you ſay, "Not one of them that CHRIST died for can periſh, nor the reſt be ſaved:" Then why do you and I beat the Air? For CHRIST will have his, you ſay, and the Devil muſt have his: Therefore let each have their own quietly; and do not torment the poor Creatures before the Time." He then went away in Haſte, and ſent for Arguments to thoſe of his own Stamp in *London*, to put a Stop to univerſal Redemption and inward Holineſs; but never yet brought them to me.

SOON after, I met with a *Roman-Catholic*, who began to condemn all Sects and Parties, ſaying, "They muſt all periſh, that died out of the *Pale* of the *Church*; that there was but one true Church, and that the Church of *Rome* was it." I ſaid, "Whatever the *Church of Rome* is, you do not belong to CHRIST's Church yet; for you Curſe and Swear, and get Drunk, and break the Sabbath; and while you continue to do ſo, you belong to the Synogogue of Satan." But he ſaid, Their Prieſts had *Peter*'s Power, and could, and would forgive the Sins of all that belong to their Community. I ſaid, "Not ſo; for one wicked Man cannot forgive another, nor forgive his own Sins; no, it is GOD that is offended, and it is he that is offended that muſt forgive the Offender; one Rebel cannot forgive another, it is the King that muſt forgive both, or both muſt ſuffer: You ſay alſo, That the Wafer is the real Body, and the Wine the real Blood of CHRIST, after Conſecration: Then, according to you,

whoſoever is a Partaker of it, hath Eternal Life abiding in him; but the Scripture ſaith, that *No Whoremonger, or Drunkard, or Blaſphemer, hath Eternal Life abiding in him*: and you know that many of your Church, that are Partakers of the *Euchariſt*, are ſuch: Nay, St. *Paul* tells us, in the 5th Chapter of the Epiſtle to the *Galatians*, of ſeventeen Sorts of Sinners, that ſhall not inherit the Kingdom of God; therefore be not deceived, neither caſt away the Reaſon God hath given you: Now bring your Wafer, and ſet it before a Swine, an Ape, or a Bear, and they will devour it; how then can you dare to ſay, that it is Divine; if it be ſo, theſe Brutes muſt be raiſed up at the laſt Day, as well as you." He gave me bad Words; and another of them ſaid, "If he might have his Will on me, he would have *me boiled in Oil*." Then left me. Oh, my God, rent away the Veil of Ignorance from that People; and let all Nations ſee thy Salvation!

On my Journey to the Place where I was going to preach, I called at a Gentleman's Houſe, where was much Company; and he inſiſted I ſhould ſtay and dine with them. I deſired to be excuſed; he ſaid, "What is your Reaſon? You have Time enough on your Hands." I replied, "Sir, I don't care to affront you in your own Houſe." "What do you mean," he ſaid. I anſwered, "If I affront the Gentlemen at your Table, it will affront you; and I do not expect to ſit at the Table To-day, but I ſhall hear the Name of the Lord blaſphemed; though there are two Clergymen in the Company; and if I do, I muſt reprove them, or carry a guilty Conſcience home; which I will not do for all you have." He ſaid, "I inſiſt of you to dine with me; and you are welcome to re-

prove Sin; and if I be guilty, reprove me firſt." I ſaid, "You, Sir, as ſoon as any one, or I ſhould not love your Soul as well as another's."

When we were ſet down, I had ſcarce Time to eat one Morſel, before I had Occaſion to reprove; for one Gentleman was a *Roman-Catholic*, and he ſcarce ſpoke three Words, but one was an Oath. I ſaid to the Maſter of the Feaſt, "There is one Thing too deep for me; I cannot fathom it." He ſaid, "What is that?" I anſwered, "When I ſee a Man endowed with Reaſon, and of a liberal Education, run himſelf out of Breath for no Prize." He ſaid, "What do you mean?" I replied, "When ſuch a one will damn his Soul with Swearing and Curſing, it is like running for no Prize: If he damn his Soul to gratify his vain and fooliſh Deſires, he hath a Sort of Pleaſure, though it is brutiſh; but the other brings neither Pleaſure nor Credit." Then ſaid the Gentleman, "*Peter* ſwore." I ſaid, "He did ſo; but when he had done, he went out, and wept bitterly; and I don't ſuppoſe, he ever ſwore again.—Sir, I wiſh you would do as he did." He ſaid, "Well, I own it is not right to ſwear; but here are ſome of your Clergy, (as you call yourſelf a Church-Man) that will ſwear as much as me, when they are hunting." I ſaid, "Sir, I am ſorry to hear that; but it will not juſtify you nor me, if we ſwear, becauſe your Prieſt, and my Miniſter will ſwear." Then another ſaid, "Do you think, that Mr. *John Weſley* would not ſwear a vain Oath for an Hundred Pounds?" I anſwered, "I believe he would not ſwear a vain Oath to ſave his Neck from the Gallows; if I was ſure he would, I would turn my Back on him for ever." The *Roman-Catholic* ſaid, "I neither care what

you nor he ſaith; for hunt I will, and I have as good a Pack of Fox Dogs as is in the Kingdom, and a Couple of as good Horſes to follow them; which do but coſt me about *Two Hundred Pounds* a Year, and I can well afford it."—But I ſaid, "Sir, How will you anſwer for ſpending *Two Hundred Pounds* a Year, when you come to give an Account of your Stewardſhip?" He anſwered it is my own; I am not a Steward." I replied, "You are but a Steward, Sir; for *The Earth is the LORD's, and the Fulneſs thereof; ſo is the Cattle on a Thouſand Hills.* He ſays, *The Gold is mine, and the Silver is mine;* and he will ſay to you, "Thou haſt taken my Gold and my Silver, and ſpent it on thy Dogs and Horſes, and fighting Cocks, in the Room of feeding the Hungry, and cloathing the Naked, or as being a Huſband to the Widow, or as a Father to the Fatherleſs, or as Eyes to the Blind, or Legs to the Lame. O, Sir, conſider, It is but a little While before GOD will ſay to you, *Come, and give an Account of thy Stewardſhip, for thou muſt be no longer Steward!* Then you will wiſh, all that you have ſpent in Voluptuouſneſs, and vain Pleaſures, had been given to the Poor and Needy." Then the two Clergymen whiſpered together; and the Whiſper went round to the *Roman-Catholic;* and he ſaid, "Why did GOD make Dogs of ſuch a Nature, if it was not for Gentlemen's Diverſion?" I anſwered, "Who dare ſay, That GOD made them ſo?" He ſaid, "Did not GOD make them?" "Yes, Sir, I replied, and you too; but not as you are." He ſaid, "What do you mean?" I ſaid, "When GOD had finiſhed the Creation, he pronounced every Thing Good; and there was no Death in any Creature; but when Sin entered into the

World, then Death entered into the World by Sin; but before Man ſinned againſt his Maker, there was nothing in one Creature that would take the Life of another: No! The Hare would as ſoon have hunted the Hound, as the Hound the Hare; at that Time, the Lamb would as ſoon have killed the Lion, as the Lion the Lamb; and the Pigeon the Hawk, as the Hawk the Pigeon; but ſince the Fall, the Earth is curſed for Man's Sins, and every Thing that it produces; nay, it is all a Curſe to Man, till it is ſanctified to him by Prayer; and I don't believe, that you, or any one that is here, go to your Knees, to deſire God to give his Bleſſing to your Undertakings, when you go a Hunting; and to enable you to uſe the Hounds and Horſes to his Glory; not believing, that you can do any Thing that will pleaſe him better." He ſaid, "I have heard that *Weſley* had taught you the Art of Reaſoning; and I find he has." I replied, "Sir, If you, or any Man that is preſent, can diſprove what I ſay, let them do it now.

After my Return to *Leeds*, I went to *Wakefield*, and preached to a ſmall, but ſerious Congregation.

The next Morning I ſet out for *Kirk-Heaton*; and in my Way, I called to Breakfaſt with a Friend in *Horborough*; but before I had been there half an Hour, the Houſe was beſet with almoſt the whole Town, Men, Women, and Children, that cried out, with one Voice, "Bring him out, that we may put him in the River." I went out to them, and ſaid, "What do you want?" They damned me, and ſaid, "You, you *Methodiſt* Dog." I replied, "What have I done to you; I am not going to preach here now." Then the Parſon's Son ſwore, "You ſhall

never preach more, for we will drown you in the River this Day." And I found, that almoſt the whole Town had agreed together, that all the Journeymen and Apprentices ſhould leave Work, as ſoon as the next Preacher came into the Town, and put a Halter about his Neck, and drag him into the River, and drown him, that the Town might be quit of them for ever; and the Parſon's Son was the Captain of the Mob, who had prepared a crazy Man to put the Halter about my Neck; and he ſtood with one in his Hand, and a Butcher with a Rope to help to hale me along; but while my Voice could be heard, they had not Power to touch me: Then they went to the Clerk's Houſe, for ſix large Hand-Bells, and came and rung them round me, ſo that my Voice could not be heard; then the Madman, who was above ſix Feet high, put the Halter to my Throat; but I put my Hand between my Throat and it, and puſhed it back, and the Man fell to the Ground, as if he had been knocked down with an Ax; and the Butcher ſtood trembling, and touched me not. The Conſtable then came with his Staff in his Hand; upon which the Mob cried, "Here is the Conſtable; let him come, and we will put the Rope on him now; for he will help us." He came to me, and I ſaid, "Are you the Conſtable?" He ſaid, "Yes, I am; and that I will let you know." I ſaid, "I am glad you are come; and I charge you in the King's Name to do your Office." He ſaid, "What is my Office?" I anſwered, "It is to quell this Mob; and to deliver me out of their Hands; and if I have done any Thing contrary to Law, to carry me before a Magiſtrate; and let me be puniſhed by the Law." He turned pale; and ſaid, "Where are you going?" I ſaid, "I was going to the

Stable to get my Horſe, but was ſtopped by this Mob. He bid them to be ſilent; and ſaid, "Follow me." He went to the Stable, and led out my Horſe, and held the Stirrup, while I got on: He then led him quite thro' the Croud, and bid me go in the Name of the LORD. O, my GOD! Hitherto thou haſt helped me!

WHEN I got to my Place, we had a comfortable Meeting; for the Power of the LORD was preſent to heal; and one, that had waited long, was ſet at Liberty; and all praiſed the LORD on my Behalf, for his delivering me from the Hands of the Ungodly.

I WENT once more to *York*, in *Paſſion Week*; and preached on *Good Friday*, at *Heworth Moor*, to a ſerious peaceable People; and gave out to preach there on *Eaſter-Sunday*, at Eight in the Morning: Then went to a Village about three Miles from *York*, where I preached to a very large and well-behaved Congregation.

ON *Eaſter Sunday* I went to *Heworth Moor*, at the Time appointed, and found two Companies of People aſſembled; the one came to hear the Word, and the other to Mob. After we had ſung an Hymn, and prayed, I opened my Book on theſe Words; *GOD having raiſed up his Son JESUS CHRIST, and ſent him to bleſs you, in turning every one of you from your Iniquities;* and I went on to prove that this was his Buſineſs in this preſent evil World, actually to ſave all true Believers from their Sins; and that it was neither Sect, Party, nor Opinion, that made a Man a real Member of CHRIST's Church; but the real Chriſtians are thoſe that are ſaved from their Sins, by JESUS CHRIST, both from Omitting, and Committing; and every Thing ſhort of this, was not Chriſtianity: Therefore, I ſaid, "Be not deceived; for whatſoever is defiled, or

unclean, cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but muſt be caſt into the Lake that burneth with Fire and Brimſtone: And as this Day is kept in the Remembrance of GOD raiſing his Son up to bleſs us, let every one cry out, "LORD bleſs me, and turn me from my Iniquities." Then a Gentleman, a *Papiſt*, that brought the Rebels to mob, cried, "Knock out the Brains of that Mad-Dog;" and perfectly gnaſhed with his Teeth. Immediately a Shower of Stones came, and hit many of the People, and they continued to throw, till not one could ſtand to hear me; nevertheleſs, not one Stone hit me, though I ſtood as a Mark on the Table, when all were fled from me, and I talked to the Mob: But when I got down, and was going away, one hit me with a Piece of a Brick on the Back of my Head, and I fell flat on my Face, and muſt have lain for ſome Time, had not two Men lifted me up; but I could not ſtand for ſome Time. The Blood ran down my Back quite into my Shoes, and the Mob followed me through the City, ſwearing, That they would kill me, when they had got me out of it. I ſaid to the LORD, "LORD, Thou waſt ſlain without the Gate, and thou canſt deliver me from the Hands of theſe blood-thirſty Men." When I was got over the Bridge, a Gentleman came, and took me by the Hand, ſaying, "What is the Matter that you bleed ſo." Some of the Mob anſwered, "That is but little to what we will do to him." Then the Gentleman pulled me into his Houſe; and told the Mob, If they did not diſperſe immediately, ſome of them ſhould be in the Caſtle before an Hour was at an End. Then they fled away; and he ſent for a Surgeon to dreſs my Head.

I LAY down a while; and Brother *Slaton* came with my Horſe, and I rode to *Ackam*, where I was to have

preached, at Five in the Afternoon; but juſt at that Time, there came about ten young Gentlemen, ſome in the Coach, ſome on the Box, and behind the Coach, who began to ſing the Songs of the Drunkards, and to throw rotten Eggs at the Women.

I AND two more were in a little Field by the Houſe, walking, when there came two big Men, one of whom ſwore, "Here he is; I will kill him if there was not another Man alive." I told him, That he had not any Reaſon to kill me, for I had done him no Wrong; nor any one in that Town. Then he pulled off his Hat and Wig, and gave them to the other Man, ſaying, "If I do not kill him, I will be damned." Then he came as fiercely at me as he could, with an Intent to run his Head againſt the Pit of my Stomach, but I ſtept aſide, and he pitched on his Head. When he got up, I ſpoke to him again, and aſked him, What I had done amiſs to him: He gave me no Anſwer, but ran at me again, and caught hold of the Collar of my Shirt, which rent in Pieces, and he fell down at my Feet again: Then he got up, and came to me the third Time; and, as I made no Reſiſtance, he threw me down, and leaped with his Knees on my Belly, ſeveral Times, 'till he had beat the Breath out of me, and ſet my Head a bleeding again. He then went to the Gentlemen, that had hired him and the other to kill me, and ſaid, "Gentlemen, I have killed the Preacher; he lies dead in the Croft." And then he took one of our Friends, and threw him againſt the Corner of a Wall, and broke two of his Ribs. The Parſon's Brother ſaid, "Well, we will ſee ourſelves; we will not take your Word." Upon which, he and about Twenty more came to me; but my Breath was come again, and I was turned on my Face, and lay bleeding on the

Ground. One of them ſaid, "He will get his Death, if he lies there a while." Then they lifted me up, and ſaid, "We will help you into the Houſe." When I could ſpeak, I ſaid, "Your Mercy is only to make Way for more Cruelty: Gentlemen, If I have done any Thing contray to the Law, let me be puniſhed by the Law: I am a Subject to King GEORGE; and to his Law I appeal; and I am willing to go before my Lord Mayor, as he is the King's Magiſtrate." But they curſed me, and the K—g too, ſaying, He was as bad as we, or he would have hanged us all like Dogs before now. One actually damned him, and ſaid, "If he was here, we would ſerve him as bad as you."

THE Parſon's Brother curſed me, and ſaid, "According to your Preaching, you would prove our Miniſters to be blind Guides, and falſe Prophets; but we will kill you as faſt as you come." One ſaid, "If *Weſley* comes on Tueſday, he ſhall not live another Day in this World." When I was got into the Street, they ſet up an Huzza, and a Perſon caught hold of my Right Hand, and gave me a haſty Pluck; at the ſame Time another ſtruck me on the left Side of my Head, and knocked me down: As I got up, they knocked me down eight Times; and when I lay on the Ground, not being able to get up, they took me by the Hair of my Head, and dragged me upon the Stones for near twenty Yards, ſome kicking me on my Sides and Thighs with their Feet, as the others dragged me along; and ſix of them got on my Body and Thighs to tread the Holy Ghoſt out of me, (as they ſaid). Then they let me alone a little While; and ſaid, one to another, "We cannot kill him." One ſaid, "I have heard, that a Cat hath nine Lives, but I think he hath nine Score." Another ſaid,

"If he has, he ſhall die this Day." A Third ſaid, "Where is his Horſe, for he ſhall quit the Town immediately?" And they ſaid to me, "Order your Horſe to be brought to you; for you ſhall go before we leave you." I ſaid, "I will not; for you intend to kill me in private, that you may eſcape Juſtice; but if you murder me, it ſhall be in Publick; and it may be, that the Gallows may bring you to Repentance, and your Souls may be ſaved from the Wrath to come." Then one ſwore if I would not go, they would put me in the Draw-Well;" and lifted up the Lid of the Well, and dragged me towards it; but a Woman, big with Child, ſtood by the Well, and puſhed ſeveral of them down, ſo that they could not get me to it. Then two Gentlewomen, that came out of the City, called the Gentlemen by their Names, that were ſtriving to put me in, who all let me go; and turned to the Gentlewomen, and looked as Men confounded. In the mean Time, ſome Friends got me up, and helped me into the Houſe. Then all the Mob ſet out for the City, ſinging debauched Songs. This was on *Eaſter-Sunday*.

I HEARD one of them ſay, as he got into the Coach, "It is impoſſible for him to live; and if *John Weſley* come on Tueſday, we will kill him; then we ſhall be quite rid of the *Methodiſts* for ever, for no one will dare to come, if they two be killed.

WHEN they were gone, I ſent for ſomething to ſweat me; and I ſweat ſo violently, that in the Morning, my Shirt was as if it had been ſtained with raw Beef; but I was not ſo ſore as I expected; for I ſet out to meet Mr. *John Weſley*; and was enabled to ride forty Miles that Day.

I MET him at *Ofmotherly*, and heard him preach on a Tomb-Stone in the Church-Yard, to a large and ſerious Congregation. I found his Word to come with Power to my Soul; and was conſtrained to cry out, "O LORD, I will praiſe thee, for thy Goodneſs to me; for thou haſt been with me, in all my Trials; thou haſt brought me out of the Jaws of Death; and though thou didſt permit Men to ride over my Head, and laid Afflictions on my Loins, yet thou haſt brought me through Fire and Water, into a wealthy Place." And indeed in all my Perſecutions, my Soul was kept in Peace, ſo that I neither felt Fear nor Anger.

So far, LORD, I am thy Witneſs; for thou doſt give Strength for our Day, according to thy Word, and Grace to help in Time of Need. O, my dear Redeemer, How ſhall I praiſe thee, as thou ought'ſt to be praiſed? O, let my Life be a living Sacrifice to thee; for it is by thee alone, that I eſcaped both Temporal and Eternal Death.

WHEN I had told Mr. *Weſley* of the Treatment I had met with, he bleſſed GOD for my Deliverance: However, I adviſed him not to go to *York*, at that Time, but to go to *Leeds*; and GOD bleſſed his Word to many Souls at *Leeds* that Week.

THUS far I can ſay, "The LORD is my Helper: O, may I never grieve his Spirit; then will he be my Guide unto Death, and my Portion for ever."

THIS is a plain Narrative of the Dealings of GOD and Man with me, from my Youth to the forty-ſecond Year of my natural Life.

AN

HYMN.

O For a Thouſand Tongues to ſing
My dear Redeemer's Praiſe!
The Glories of my God and King,
The Triumphs of his Grace!

My gracious Maſter, and my God,
Aſſiſt me to proclaim,
To ſpread thro' all the Earth abroad
The Honours of thy Name.

Jesu, the Name that charms our Fears,
That bids our Sorrows ceaſe;
'Tis Muſic in the Sinners Ears,
'Tis Life, and Health, and Peace.

He breaks the Power of cancell'd Sin,
He ſets the Priſoners free;
His Blood can make the Fouleſt clean;
His Blood avail'd for me.

He ſpeaks; and liſt'ning to his Voice,
New Life the Dead receive;
The mournful, broken Hearts rejoice,
The humble Poor believe.

Hear him ye Deaf, his Praiſe, ye Dumb,
Your looſen'd Tongues employ;
Ye Blind, behold your Saviour come,
And leap ye Lame for Joy.

Look unto him; ye Nations own
Your God, ye fallen Race;
Look, and be ſav'd thro' Faith alone,
Be juſtified by Grace!

See all your Sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was ſlain;
His Soul was once an Off'ring made,
For every Soul of Man.

Harlots, and Publicans, and Thieves,
In holy Triumph join!
Sav'd is the Sinner that believes,
From Crimes as great as mine.

Drunkards, and all ye helliſh Crew,
Blacken'd with Luſt and Pride;
Believe the Saviour died for you,
And feel his Blood apply'd.

Awake from guilty Nature's Sleep,
And Christ ſhall give you Light;
Caſt all your Sins into the Deep,
And ſet your Spirit right.

With me (your Chief) ye then ſhall know,
Shall feel your Sins forgiv'n,
Anticipate your Heav'n below,
And own that Love is Heav'n.

FINIS.

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